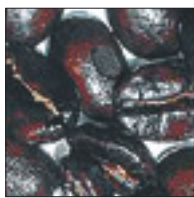


These little beams are the second-most traded commodity in the world.

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A sea of bamboo in Sichuan Province offers visitors a scenic respite from the city.

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"Because I am a man, I feel I should be even more careful."

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Sixth High-tech Expo Winds Down



By Xiao Rong

The Sixth China Beijing High-tech Expo closed on Monday, with agreements reached on 200 cooperative and technological exchange projects and contracts worth US \$4.68 billion signed.

The four-day expo featured contributions from 85 foreign governmental organizations, enterprise delegations and foreign commercial organizations from 45 countries, as well as over 2,000 foreign scientists, entrepreneurs and scholars.

The closing ceremony was a highlight, with the organizing committee naming the "top hot spots" of the expo, as voted by foreign media. The most popular exhibition areas were those focusing on equipment and technology, like the Digital Olympics display and the Century Building International Integrated Housing Exhibition.

The hottest forum was the International Forum on High-growth Enterprises and Financial Markets, and the most successful trade talk was the International Investment Projects Talk.

The annual exhibition, centered at the China International Exhibition Hall, focused on cutting edge technology in areas such as Olympic construction projects, IT, biological and medical industries, environmental protection, and modern manufacturing.

A total of 325 investment bidding projects worth around \$16 billion were introduced. Twenty-five infrastructure projects with a total expected investment of \$4.68 billion have been the heavyweights of the package.

Unlike previous years, trade talks on high-tech and economic projects have been the focus of the sixth expo, with the exhibition and exchange activities also recommending key projects. Fifty key projects covering urban water recycling, garbage collection and disposal, and subway and highway construction dominated the "Key Project Recommendations for Beijing Urban Development".

The seventh session of the high-tech expo is scheduled to be held from May 22 to 26 next year.

(See reports pages 5 - 8)

Service staff packed up at the Beijing International Conference Center. Photo by Jackey

By Yu Shanshan

The history of each Chinese dynasty has been recorded by its successor, a tradition that began with the classic "Historical Records" of Western Han Dynasty historian Sima Qian.

These records, numbering 24 in total, and known as the *Ershisishi*, or *Twenty Four Histories*, form a series of continuous dynastic histories, unique in the world, ending with the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644). With the history of the Qing Dynasty (1644-1912), China's last feudal dynasty, left untold, many experts since the founding of new China have repeatedly urged that this missing leaf in a work that spans millennia be completed. In December 2002, the central government decided that the time had come to tackle the mammoth project.

A daunting prospect

The fact that the committee in charge of compiling the history has spent the nine months since the work started determining two basic parameters - the type of literature that will serve as source material and the stylistic guidelines, give an indication of what an enormous task compiling the Qing history is.

On August 25, a three-day seminar on the compilation of the history of the Qing dynasty opened, the tenth since the compilation work began. More than 40 noted scholars, researchers and experts from the mainland and across the Taiwan Straits attended.

The 25-member committee plans to compile the 100-volume-history over a ten-year-period. When complete, it will contain some 30 million words, more than in all of the twenty-four earlier histories combined.

According to the committee's plan, the project will be divided into two parts. The main project is the actual writing of the almost 30-million-word history; the other is the collecting, arranging and publishing of the Qing Dynasty archives and documents, in itself, another massive project.

other massive project.

Dai Yi, the director of the compilation committee and a history professor at Renmin University, said in an interview with *China Weekly* magazine in March this year "We would not only seek to protect those precious historical documents by compilation, but also try to guarantee the quality of the whole compilation work. The two projects will inform and complement each other."

The government has listed the compilation as a key culture project. A Qing History Compilation Leadership Group was formed immediately after the founding of the academic committee to assist with the budget and other administrative tasks, headed by minister of culture Sun Jiazheng. The total budget for the history is expected to exceed 100 million yuan, but the government has given assurances that it will ensure all necessary funds are available.

"To recompile the Qing dynastic history is the responsibility of our generation. In the future, when people look back to the 21st century to see what China left for posterity, the Qing history must be one of the big things," Dai said.

With modern readers in mind

The selection of source material and the stylistic guidelines are the keys to the whole project. The main questions centered on whether or not to continue using the method of *Jizhuanti* (history presented as a series of biographies) that the twenty-four histories used. After much discussion, the committee decided on "combining the advantages of all types to create a new one."

The "based on the old, and develop a new" approach has also been used to settle some smaller controversies, including the problem of whether to use *Wenyanwen* (the literature style used in books of ancient China), or *Baihua* (the preferred style since 1919). The final decision was to use simple modern language to write. "We are writing for today's people. The history is always used as a mirror for contemporary society," Jiang said.

Writing the History of a Dynasty



Dai Yi, director of the Qing dynastic history compilation committee

Photo by Photocom

The new Qing History is to include six parts: *Tongji* (event records), *Biannian* (chronicles), *Zhi* (records on special fields of study), *Zhuan* (biography), *Biao* (lists) and *Tu* (illustrations).

The illustrations are to be a highlights of the history, which will utilize numerous maps, portraits, military pictures, oil paintings and photos. In the earlier histories, technological limitations meant that virtually no illustration were used. But there are ample illustrations of all kinds available from the Qing Dynasty. In the Palace Museum alone, there are tens of thousands of photos, 80 percent of which have never been published.

Not only the emperor

"In years to come, people will quote facts from this history volume. So we must be responsible, and ensure we record the true history," said Zhu Chengru, deputy president of the Palace Museum and vice director of the compilation committee. Though there is a leadership group from the central government, historians insist that it is appropriate for the government to simply fund the project, as opposed to becoming directly involved, a view supported by Wang Xiaoqi.

As Dai puts it, "Times have changed. We no longer live under the regime of an emperor - that's the point."

This also means that the emphasis of this history will be somewhat different to its predecessors, in that it will be less "emperor-centric." Wang Xiaoqi said, "Aside from biographies of

emperors and high officials in the court, we intend to write biographies of people who had an influence in every field; scientists, strategists, thinkers and artists. And there will also be biographies of missionaries and the revolutionaries who toppled the Qing Dynasty."

"The compilation of the history is not merely a technical problem, but should represent this generation's understanding of history," said Chen Qitai, history professor of Beijing Normal University, at the Qing dynastic history compilation seminar in May 2001.

A zigzag course

"We expect the compilation to take ten years to complete, but time is tight," Dong Jianzhong told *Beijing Today* in a telephone interview in late August, "Our most eminent specialists in the area of Qing history are all in their sixties and seventies."

The situation is especially significant for one man, 77-year-old Dai Yi. The realization of his dream to compile the Qing history has been delayed almost fifty years.

In fact, a 536-volume draft of the Qing dynastic history has already been written. Written by academics who grew up in the Qing Dynasty, it was compiled between 1914 and 1928, during the early Republic of China period. However the government does not recognize the authority of this work as "those academics were still loyal to the Qing court after its fall and their standing can hardly be objective," says Dai Yi.

In 1958, when the central gov-

ernment first considered rewriting the Qing Dynasty history, Dai, then a graduate of the history department of Beijing University, raised the suggestion that the project needed researchers who had studied Qing History. However a severe famine from 1959 to 1961 suspended consideration of the project. In 1965, the government revived the project for the second time. A committee was set up, and Dai was selected as one of the seven committee members. However the work was again interrupted, this time by the Cultural Revolution.

Revived again briefly in 1978, only to be cancelled due to a lack of funds, it was not until 2002, when Jiang Zemin visited Renmin University, that Dai Yi and Li Wenhui, then president of the university, saw their dream of almost fifty years finally come to life.

"The length of time that has elapsed since the fall of the Qing Dynasty guarantees our objectivity, while decades of research and relevant publications from the mainland, Taiwan and western countries have established a solid foundation for our compilation work," Li said.

Throughout China's history, there are numerous stories about the hardships suffered by ancient historians as they compiled their histories, and the unshakable belief they held in the importance of their work for later generations.

(Continue on page 2)

EXECUTIVE EDITOR: ZHANG XIAOXIA

EDITOR: YU SHANSHAN

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Gas Bombs Sealed



By Shan Jinliang

A Japanese government-appointed group has concluded its disposal of chemical weapons left behind by the Japanese army near Shijiazhuang, capital of Hebei Province.

Fifty-two gas bombs left behind by Japanese troops during World War II were found in Luquan, a city west of Shijiazhuang, in 1991. More than 90 people have been affected by leakages from the chemical weapons.

Hidehisa Horinouchi, head of the team, who is also director of the China and Mongolia Division under the Asian and Oceania Affairs Bureau of the Japanese Foreign Ministry, said the Japanese side would cover all costs of the two-week effort.

The team is the fourth task force sent to China since 2000 by the Japanese government to search for abandoned chemical weapons. Early last month, toxic mustard gas from containers abandoned by the Japanese army in Qiqihar, Heilongjiang Province, caused 40 injuries and one death.

The Chinese victims told the press they would hire lawyers to sue the Japanese government.

Photo by Jia Ting

Nestlé Warm up China

The Swiss-based Nestlé Group — the world's largest food company — has made foreign direct investment from Switzerland in the Greater China Region amounting cumulatively to 6.7 billion yuan over the last 13 years. Today Nestlé operates 20 plants in the Greater China Region, with annual sales amounting to 8.5 billion yuan in 2002. Nestlé's headquarters for the Greater China Region are located in Beijing.

The continuous and well-proven success of the Nestlé Group is based on the merit of its long-term strategy rather than aiming at short-term only benefits. Nestlé is dedicated to the transfer of know-how and the development of local resources to the benefit of the local community and all parties concerned.

Nestlé believes that its activities in any country can only be of long-term benefit to the Company if they are at the same time beneficial for that country. Today, 99% of Nestlé products sold in Chinese mainland are locally manufactured. Whenever possible and economically feasible, Nestlé helps the rural population by buying and processing their agricultural produce, thus providing the local farmers with a steady daily income and daily technical assistance to improve the quality and quantity of their production. As an example Nestlé pioneered in helping develop fresh milk production in the Heilongjiang and Shandong Provinces where today Nestlé collects over 1,000 tons of fresh milk daily from some 26,000 small farmers, thus providing a regular and daily income of 80 yuan per farmer on average, which is incremental to their income from other farming activities. This has contributed over the years to a significant improvement in the standard of living of these farmers and of the local community. In this example alone, it is estimated that some 100,000 people benefit directly and indirectly from the successful development of Nestlé's Shuangcheng dairy factory in Heilongjiang Province. Also, in Yunnan Province, Nestlé has set up an experimentation and demonstration coffee growing station, helping farmers to grow high-quality coffee, thus replacing imports.

In addition to building business at grass root level, Nestlé offers attractive regular employment and continuous training to its 10,000 regular local staff in the Greater China Region.

In 2002, the Nestlé Group spent Swiss Franc 1.2 billion (7.2 billion yuan) in research & development at its scientific research centre in Lausanne, Switzerland, and at both its R&D Centres and highly specialized Product Technology Centres around the world. Nestlé established a Research & Development Centre in Shanghai in 2001. It is engaged in applied science and nutrition research as well as the development of affordable and nutritious food products that are adapted to the taste and liking of Chinese consumers.

Right from its origins in Switzerland over 130 years ago, when the founder of the Nestlé company, Henri Nestlé, developed a pioneering cereal based milk food that saved the lives of many babies throughout the world, the Nestlé Group has been highly focused on quality and nutrition covering all ages of life, from NESTLE advanced infant formulae to NESTLE OMEGA milk for senior people. "Good Food" and nutrition are essential to life, health and well-being. In addition to nutritional values, food products must offer appetite appeal, good taste and convenience, leading to pleasure and enjoyment — the essence of "Good Life".

Quality is the cornerstone of Nestlé's success: Nestlé is committed to the best quality and freshness as consumers deserve the very best. Nestlé's quality image and reputation for high standards has been built over many years and is being endorsed further every day. Mr. J.M. Mueller, Chairman and CEO of Nestlé (China) Ltd and Head of Nestlé in the Greater China Region says: "The Nestlé brand name — Que Chao" — on a product is a promise to the consumer that it is safe to consume, that it complies with all regulations and that it meets high standard of quality while providing pleasure and enjoyment. This is why we can say: Choose Quality, Choose Nestlé".



J.M. Mueller Chairman & CEO Nestlé (China), Head of Nestlé in the Greater China Region



Photo by Qian Bingge

US Congressman Brings Crabs to Beijing

By Wang Xiaoxiao

Fresh Dungeness Crabs from Oregon, America are getting seafood lovers excited in Beijing. They've just appeared at the Beijing marine products market, thanks to a new direct flight that can get them here in just 11 hours. Dennis Richardson, US congressman for Oregon, has been busy promoting the crabs during his first visit to Beijing.

"When Air China launched the direct freight

flight to Portland, Oregon last November, all of us said 'we've been expecting you'. Beijingers will be able to eat fresh Dungeness Crabs from now on," said Richardson last Saturday.

According to Richardson, seafood has been an important industry in Oregon for years. Oregon lies on the west coast of America and has become the world's second largest exporter of crabs.

It used to take 24 hours for the crabs to reach China

and half of them might have already died during the long journey, Richardson added.

Despite the high price, Dungeness Crabs are proving popular. According to Guan Kaixiang, marine products manager of Tianmin Market in Beijing, more than a ton of Dungeness crabs have already been sold at his market. So it's no surprise that Richardson is set to continue promoting crabs in Xiamen, Fuzhou and Shanghai.

New Association Established to Explore "Olympic Economy"

By Zhao Hongyi

Beijing is determined to make the 2008 Olympic Games a success based on market strength, but how to achieve the goal remains unknown, warns Wei Jizhong, a former senior official of the General Administration of Sports.

Wei made his remarks yesterday at the launching ceremony of the Beijing Olympic Economy Research Association, a non-governmental organization devoted to helping explore market support for the games and provide consultancy to domestic enterprises interested in sponsorship.

"We have the concepts," said Wei, "but lack the skills to implement them."

Beijing established the organizing committee for the games last April, two years earlier than usual. The central and Beijing governments assigned a budget of 280 billion yuan for contest facilities construction. "How to spend the money needs a lot of consideration," Wei said at the seminar after the ceremony.

The retired sports official called for attention to cost-effective measures.

"We should use the money to incubate the 'Olympic economy'." Wei advised the organizing committee to contract some projects out to domestic private and small enterprises.

Wei said the Olympic economy should not only involve multinationals, state-owned enterprises and business elites. "It is an economy for the whole nation to participate in."

Encouraged by the successes of multinational sponsors of the games, a number of Chinese companies are ready to become sponsors of the 2008 games.

Nortel Networks Strengthen R&D Capacity

By Xiao Rong

Telecom equipment provider Nortel Networks is to pour over US\$200 million into research and development in China over the next three years, and will double the capacity of its Beijing R&D center by the end of this year.

This was announced at Tuesday's press conference, at which the company also revealed its plan to establish a Nortel Networks Technology Park in Chaoyang District. According to the cooperation memorandum between the Beijing municipality and Nortel, the park will occupy an area of 55,000 square meters. The first phase will be completed by the end of 2004.

"The China market has proved to be extremely important to Nortel, both in sales and human resources. Through our persistent and focused investment in R&D, we have expanded our market share in China," said Frank Dunn, president and CEO of Nortel Networks, at Tuesday's press conference in the Beijing Hotel.

Nortel Networks now has R&D centers in Beijing and Guangzhou, which focus on providing technology services in voice-over IP, multimedia, 3G and next generation networks.

Boeing Estimates High Growth in China

By Xiao Xia

Boeing detailed its 2003 Current Market Outlook (CMO) for China at a media conference hosted by David Wang, president of Boeing China, and Randolph Baseler, vice president of Marketing, Boeing Commercial Airplanes at Diaoyutai state guesthouse on September 16.

The outlook says China's airlines will need 2,400 new airplanes in the next 20 years, and Wang said that even this was a conservative estimate. Wang said he was confident China would quadruple the size of its economy by 2020.

By 2022, Boeing estimates Chinese carriers will be flying more than 2850 passengers and cargo airplanes, making China's fleet the largest outside the US. "China's aviation market is very dynamic," says Baseler, "due to the country's size and population."

Boeing has a strong presence at the Aviation Expo China 2003 which opened on September 17. The company offered updated information on its new 7E7 and other innovations. "Boeing has been a key partner for Chinese aviation for more than 30 years," said Wang.

In addition to the 7E7, Wang said that the Boeing exhibits at this year's expo will feature the entire commercial airplane product line, represented in a series of graphic panels, plasma screens and models.

(Continued from page 1)

In this respect, Dai Yi is no exception. "It is through the twenty four histories that China's 5,000 years of culture has been handed down," said Dai when he heard that the government had finally given the project the go-ahead in December 2002, "Honor and fear fill my heart at the same time."

Background

The Qing Dynasty (1644-1912) is widely perceived as a period of prosperity, decay, stagnation, revolution, laziness and challenges. The early and middle period represents the culmination of two thousand years of bureaucratic administration, and two thousand years of literature, philosophy and art, and as such, epit-

omizes the traditional thinking structures — especially in the shape of the Neo-Confucian wise and paternal ruler — that were unable to cope with the sudden challenges that came in the mid and late 19th century. That differentiates the Qing from other dynasties in China and makes the compilation of this period of history a much more complex work.

Army of Walkers Hits the Street

By Zhang Huan

Thousands of people laced up their sneakers and pounded the pavement last Sunday for the 21-kilometer first Beijing International Walkathon, run inside the confines of the Beijing Economic and Technological Development Area (BDA) in Yizhuang, Daxing District.

Under the theme of "Walking toward 2008," the event was aimed at promoting the Beijing Olympic Games. Twenty-nine exhibition boards introducing previous Olympic host cities were set up alongside the route.

Participants ranged in age from four to 87 and all were dressed in red, green, yellow, black and blue T-shirts, the colors of the Olympic rings. Among the thousands of walkers were employees of foreign embassies and corporations and foreign students.

Wang Wenda, 83, completed the entire route without any difficulty. "When I heard about the walkathon, I immediately signed up with two friends. Getting exercise is a big part of my life and has kept me healthy so I haven't taken any medicine for over 20 years," he said.

Primary school student Jin Duo reached the finish line on his wheel chair. "I was sure I could get to the end by myself," he stated.

Some participants sought ways to make the lengthy stroll more strenuous. Zhang Zhe, who completed the walk wearing a 25-kilogram backpack, said, "I'm used to walking with loads, I've been doing it as a means of exercise for over a year. It's meant as training for backpacking, when you have to carry things like a tent, food and medicine. This walkathon was a great test of my hiking progress."



Photo by Wei Tong

Foreign Drivers No Longer Tested on Chinese Skills

By Wang Xiaoxiao

Starting this month, getting a driver's license has become easier for the many foreigners living in the capital. On September 1, the Auto Administration Department of the Beijing Public Security Bureau issued new versions of the required driving test in English, Japanese and Korean. Previously, the tests were only printed in Chinese.

The earlier language barrier caused problems for many expats taking the tests. Nearly 80 people from seven different countries have taken the new foreign language driving tests since they were unveiled.

As of the same date, the driving testing site has also been changed from the Toyota Driving Center to the Foreign Affairs Office of the Auto Administration Department at No. 90 Laiguangying Xilu in Chaoyang District. This shift allows hopeful foreign drivers to turn in their forms, take their tests and receive their licenses at one place.

L'Oreal Names Best Chinese Photographer

By Xiao Rong

The 2003 L'Oreal Best Chinese Contemporary Photographer Award was granted Wednesday night in Pingyao, a small, well-preserved ancient city in Shanxi Province.

The gold prize went to Hei Ming, a reporter from *China Youth* magazine, for her work *Monk of Shaolin Temple*.

This is the second consecutive year that L'Oreal Group has sponsored the award as part of its participation in the three-year-old Pingyao International Photography Festival. Under the theme of "Sharing true moments of love with L'Oreal," this year's program included a series of activities aimed at improving China's art field and promoting cultural exchange between the East and West.

"Through our sponsorship and promotion of the Pingyao International Photography Festival, L'Oreal hopes to discover more new Chinese contemporary photographers and introduce China's modern photographic art to the world," said Giorgio Galli, vice president of L'Oreal Group, at Wednesday's awards ceremony. He added that the company would display prize-winning works from the most recent two contests at an exhibition in France next February.

The winning photographs and more than 5,000 others from 14 countries have been on show since Tuesday's launch of the 2003 Pingyao International Photography Festival. The seven-day event includes four forums focusing on architecture, the human body, landscapes and memory. This year's event also marks the opening of the new Pingyao International Photography Museum.



Winner Hei Ming and Giorgio Galli
Photo by Cui Jun

Boats Float Again on Grand Canal

By Sun Ling

The Beijing section of the over 1,000-year-old Grand Canal that runs from the capital to Hangzhou in Zhejiang Province, was reopened to boats on September 11 after being thoroughly cleaned. Navigation of the 11-kilometer local section of the huge man-made channel had previously not been possible for over 100 years.

The waterway links several scenic spots in Beijing, giving tourists an attractive new way to travel between the many notable sites in the capital.

Dug in the Sui Dynasty (581-618), the Grand Canal, or Jinghang Canal, is the oldest and longest canal in the world. The 1,764-kilometer artificial water body connects with the Yangtze, Yellow, Huaihe, Haihe and Qiantang Rivers and historically played a central role in trade and cultural communication, as well as the transport of grain, armaments and other supplies, between China's North and South. With the advent of newer, faster forms of transportation over the past 100 years, however, the canal's importance quickly diminished and some parts fell into disrepair.

A senior official from the Grand Canal Culture and Industry Office in Tongzhou District surnamed Jin told *Beijing Today* on Wednesday that public response to the canal tourism project has been enthusiastic.

According to Jin, the reopening of the 11-kilometer section is just one part of a larger plan to clean up Beijing's water ways. The capital's extensive canal system is slated to be completely cleaned, restored and reconnected within a few years.

Guinness Record Falls to Hunan Human Dominoes

By Wang Xiaoxiao

Last Friday, for the opening ceremony of the 2003 Hunan Province Tourism Festival in the provincial capital of Changsha, 10,350 people purposely fell over in perfect order, earning a Guinness World Record for the world's largest human domino chain. Their massive collective feat surpassed the previous record-earning effort by 9,250 people in Singapore around three years ago.

At around 11 o'clock that morning, Vice Director of the China National Tourism Administration Zhang Xiqin pushed over the first human "domino" - Chou Xiao, a high-profile host from Hunan TV. It took nearly 10 minutes for

the thousands of other people to all flop onto their backs. In the end, their specially-designed clothes come together to form a detailed map of Hunan.

According to a report in the Hunan-based *Xiaoxiang Morning Post* on Saturday, the human domino fall was originally supposed to include exactly 10,000 people, but the roster was expanded at the last minute to make room for some foreign tourists.

The activity was designed and directed by Cao Zhongfa, a human domino master brought in from Beijing. The pre-fall line snaked out an amazing 2,328 meters from an over-water stage to Changsha's World Window Square.



Photo by Photocom

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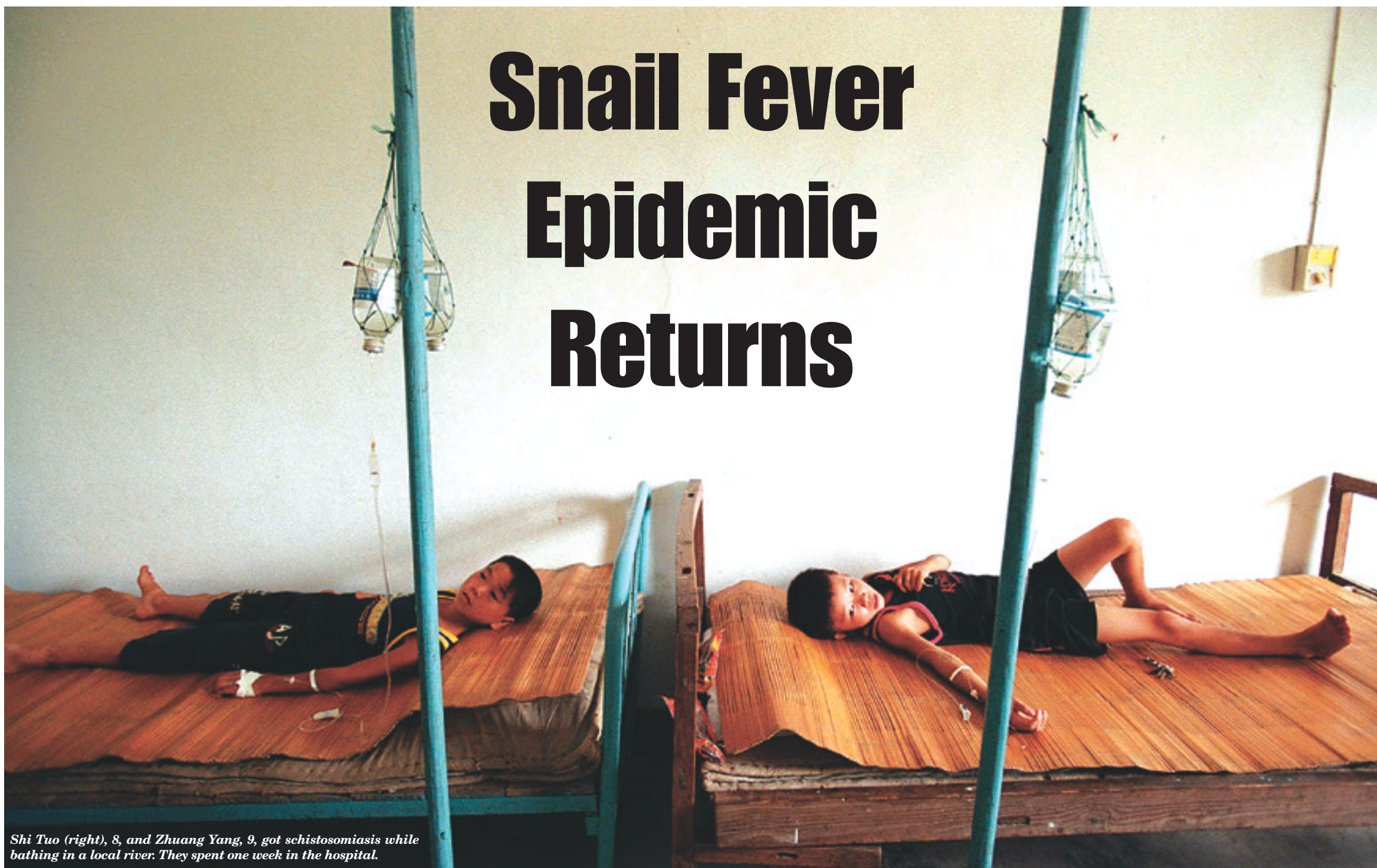
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Snail Fever Epidemic Returns



Shi Tuo (right), 8, and Zhuang Yang, 9, got schistosomiasis while bathing in a local river. They spent one week in the hospital.

By Wu Danhua

Schistosomiasis, also known as Bilharzia, is making a comeback in southern China. The disease has been endemic in China for at least a century, but it was thought that the disease had been brought under control. However, due to flooding and lack of funds for preventive work, the problem is becoming severe again. According to Ministry of Health statistics released on August 25, there are 810,000 people suffering from chronic schistosomiasis in China, 26,000 of whom are in a serious condition. And the number of people contracting acute schistosomiasis is on the rise.

In danger

More than 100 counties in Hunan, Hubei, Jiangxi, Anhui, Jiangsu, Sichuan, and Yunnan provinces are considered to be areas where the disease is not being effectively controlled. About 65 million people are thought to be at risk in these regions. The most severely hit areas are Dongting and Poyang Lake, as well as some mountainous regions in Sichuan and Yunnan province.

On August 25, 2003, Gao Qiang, the standing vice minister of the Ministry of Health, reported the present status of work to control the disease to the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress. He said that China is facing a dangerous situation with the disease. Therefore, the Health Ministry recently promulgated the "Serious Schistosomiasis Epidemic Contingency Settlement Project". The project includes guidelines about defining infected areas and measures to take in those places, such as conducting weekly reports, allocation of funds and provision of health services.

Schistosomiasis is a parasitic disease that leads to fever, headache, lethargy and more severe, life-threatening conditions. Infected children can have cognitive defects impairing memory and learning ability.

To survive, the parasite must find a fresh water snail. Once it has found its snail host, the parasite divides, producing thousands of new parasites which are then excreted by the snail into the surrounding water. They can penetrate an individual's skin within a few seconds, continuing their biological cycle once they have made their way to the victim's blood vessels. Within 30 to 45 days, the parasite is transformed into a long worm which can lay as many as 2000 eggs per day in its host.

Wang Zengkun, 45, a villager of Yuanjiang county, whose schistosomiasis has become acute. To cure him would cost 30,000 yuan, but he does not have the money.

Photos by Lu Guang



People are infected by contact with water during normal daily activities such as personal hygiene and swimming, or by professional activities such as fishing, rice cultivation or irrigation. Due to lack of information or insufficient attention to hygiene, infected individuals can then contaminate their local water supply.

The disease was diagnosed recently at Dongting Lake after a number of local people were found to have symptoms.

Reasons for resurgence

The first confirmed case of schistosomiasis in China was in Changde, Hunan province, in 1905. Prior to liberation, 10 million people were believed to be suffering from schistosomiasis.

Since the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949, a number of national and provincial anti-schistosomiasis centers have been set up, which have carried out many large-scale surveys and control programs. Due to these efforts, the disease has been successfully controlled, but it has never been eradicated.

In recent years, however, the disease has been on the rise again. In 1995, 391 counties and cities were struck by outbreaks of schistosomiasis. In 2001, the number increased to 418. This summer, the number of acute schistosomiasis patients has been rapidly increasing and if effective measures are not taken immediately an epidemic could break out in parts of the Yangtze River Valley, said Wang Liying, an endemic and vermin-

osis division director with the Diseases Control Department of the Ministry of Health.

There seem to be two main reasons for this resurgence. According to specialists, the main reason is the flood disaster along the Yangtze River in 1998, caus-

ing the disease to be spread rapidly in surrounding regions.

Insufficient funds is another factor hindering control of the disease. In 1992, a schistosomiasis control project began, supported by a loan from the World Bank. But when the loan ran out in 1998 the project was severely curtailed as funds tailed off. Investment in controlling the disease remains insufficient. For example, in Yuanjiang city, a severely hit area of Hunan province, there are 12 control stations with 600 staff. According to Zhang Jian, head of the Yuanjiang schistosomiasis control office, since 1996, the government has granted 2.79 million yuan to the city annually, which is mainly used for salaries and welfare for the staff. The fund increased to 3.272 million this year. "To be honest, it's far from enough", Zhang said. As well as the 600 staff, there are 400 retirees to pay for. More than half of the money goes to retirees, so each employee's annual income is only 2000 yuan. The fund is just not enough for schistosomiasis control work, says Li Huazhong, vice director of the schistosomiasis control office of Hunan. He says the office only has enough funds for superficial work.

Some experts say that establishment of a proper disease pre-

vention system is the most urgent task. "The absence of public health systems in rural areas has become a serious obstruction", said Xue Lan, vice director of the Public Management School of Tsinghua University. Wang Liying said the battle against the disease should be a combined effort, involving all the departments affected. "It is far from enough to depend only on the health departments to fight the epidemic; it needs joint efforts from different departments such as agriculture and water conservancy," he added.

Experts also pointed out that the resurgence of schistosomiasis is related to some historical malpractices. For example, the practice of filling in lake areas for land reclamation in the 1970s brought about frequent floods in these areas, increasing the spread of the disease. In recent years, the government has been trying the opposite - increasing the size of lakes - in order to improve flood resistance ability in these areas. According to statistics, in the five provinces hit by serious floods in 1998, 90% of the reclaimed land is at risk of schistosomiasis infection. In addition, the late 1970s and 1980s saw a general relaxation of efforts to control the disease.

Gotta make a living

"The disease is not hereditary or contagious. So in theory, as long as you avoid contact with infected water, you will not be infected," says Yang Jieting, vice director of the Dongting Lake schistosomiasis control station. "But now almost all of Dongting Lake is infected, so it is impossible for people to avoid infected water; therefore, the infection rate in this area is over 47%".

"We have no other choice. Even though we know that we may contract the disease, we still have to work on the water; otherwise, we cannot make a living," said Duan Yiming, a boatman.

"This is the most difficult question", says Li Huazhong. The people in the affected areas cannot live without water, "unless they have a better way to make money".

According to Wang Leiping, director of the Schistosomiasis Precaution Research Institute of Jiangsu Province, "From May to October is the worst period of schistosomiasis. Therefore, at present, we should still be highly alert to precautions." Precautions include being careful about drinking water, avoiding rivers if possible and not eating raw aquatic food. Symptoms such as fever and lethargy should be investigated swiftly.

Sex Museum Forced to Move Over

By Chen Si

China's first sex museum is having to move home again. Already forced out of Nanjing Road to a less promising area of Shanghai by lack of funds, the museum is now leaving town and hoping for more success in Tongli, an ancient town in Jiangsu province.

Forbidden

In September 1999, Liu Dalin, professor of the Department of Sociology, Shanghai University, decided to open the first national "sex culture museum" on Nanjing Road. He felt sex was an important part of China's ancient civilization. The museum was divided into areas covering education on sex in ancient times, hygiene and ancient carnal practices.

However, it was difficult to find the museum, as there was no signpost. The management authorities of Nanjing Road forbade the museum from setting up any boards with the word "sex". According to a rule made in 1996 by the Nation-

al Industry and Business Bureau, "It is forbidden to disseminate or advertise products of sex in any forms." Liu objected. "I pointed out that sex culture was not the same as sex products, but the management department did not agree," Liu said. "I suggested changing the word 'sex' into 'procreation', but they still refused." Liu says the officials were too conservative to see his point of view. "I never thought this would be a problem in such an international city."

Disappointment

With no signboard or sponsors, the museum was forced to move to Wuding Road in 2001. It was a residents' community with no local tourist attractions, so even fewer visitors came. "The cost of running the museum per month was nearly 50,000 yuan, including rent, salary and water and electricity. Our revenue came to about 20,000 yuan per month, so my colleagues and I had to cover the rest," Liu said. Since the opening of the museum, Liu has been trying to co-

operate with travel agencies to attract tourists, but here again, conservative attitudes have obstructed his efforts.

Traditional ideas

During the past four years, the sex museum has gone on tours around the country and has been warmly received. The Internet has also proved a lifeline. There were 300,000 clicks on the museum website the first day it went online. The media has also helped in a way, reports of China's first sex museum drawing curious visitors from all over the country. But business has remained slow. Hu Hongxia, executive president of the museum, told *Beijing Today* that there was plenty of interest in the museum, but that traditional ideas are still prevalent, making it difficult for people to accept the concept. Many people cannot seem to decide whether the museum offers sex culture or eroticism. "We need to create a more healthy atmosphere of sex culture," says Liu.

If it's any consolation, it's

been the same in other countries. In September 28, 2002, a sex history museum opened in New York. The museum aimed to show how sex lives had changed during America's history. It was controversial to begin with and a lot of people objected to it, but the museum has proved successful. "With the development of society, people's ability to judge will be improved," says Liu. "Sex will be accepted by most people in future as a cultural thing. Refusing to talk about it is merely conservative."

Keep it up

Just as hope for the project was fading, Liu was invited to move his museum to Tongli, an ancient town in Jiangsu province with a history of 1,000 years. People there gave a warm welcome to the museum and provided a large yard for it where there used to be a school. Liu has also received offers of investment. "Our museum is aimed at advocating sex civilization," says Liu. "I hope sex culture can be protected and popularized. We could even make this the No. 1 sex culture museum in the world."



New Era of Cooperation

Visitors walk through a model of the Xuanwu District International Media Boulevard at the Sixth China Beijing International High-tech Expo.

Xinhua Photo

By Sun Ming

Foreign business leaders hailed growing cooperation with Chinese partners at September 12's opening ceremony for the Sixth China Beijing International High-tech Expo.

Over 800 hundred people including governmental officials, business leaders and experts from 27 countries and regions attended the opening at the Great Hall of the People.

The expo was originally planned to be held in May but was postponed due to the outbreak of SARS in Beijing.

Wang Qishan, Beijing's acting mayor, delivered the opening speech. He said the municipal government is trying its best to help attract more capital, technology and talent to Beijing through implementing new policies.

State Councillor Chen Zhili said at the ceremony that China would make efforts to promote the development of hi-tech industries in the country.

"Hi-tech industries offer China a new method of industrialization with high economic efficiency, low costs, less pollution and full use of human resources," said Chen.

Francois Roussely, Chairman and CEO of Electricité de France Group, Yoichi Morishita, Chairman of Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., and Ekkehard D. Schulz, Chairman of Thyssen-Krupp AG also gave speeches.

"China's energy needs are growing at a rapid pace and will expand considerably over the next few decades as urbanization proceeds," said Roussely, whose speech was titled "Energy for a Sustainable Future." "This presents a major infrastructure challenge and a great opportunity to develop and implement long-range sustainable energy solutions."

Roussely said that by moving quickly and decisively into hydrogen, China would gain a competitive advantage and set an example of sustainable energy development for the rest of

the world.

Morishita said in his speech titled "The Driving Force of Enterprise Development" that due to the rapid advancement in "globalization and the borderless environment," a movement in one place quickly spreads around the world and makes a big impact on politics, the economy and society.

"Responding to these big changes in trends, I believe we must change our way of management," said Morishita.

Schulz said that China has high potential, particularly in its automotive and construction industries, and ThyssenKrupp is looking forward to further cooperation with China's enterprises in these areas.

Over 2,000 hi-tech enterprises from home and abroad held exhibitions during the expo, which also featured 22 forums on the world economy and China's economic development, involving over 400 domestic and overseas experts.

Olympic Investment Needed

By Sun Ming

The Beijing Municipal Government and BOCOG are to come up with a series of policies designed to attract more investment for Olympic-related projects.

Jiang Xiaoyu, vice president of the Beijing Organizing Committee for the Games of the XXIX Olympiad (BOCOG), revealed the plan on September 13 at the expo.

The official marketing plan for the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games, a five-year calendar of opportunities for Chinese and international enterprises, was unveiled on September 5.

Beijing plans to spend a total of \$34 billion on the 2008 Olympics. It plans to raise a further 50 billion yuan (\$6 billion) for the construction of projects related to the Games.

"A lack of funding has caused enterprises from home and abroad to actively lobby the government for wider funding channels through the capital market," said Jiang. "But some of the planned sports venues haven't received much attention from investors yet."

Because of low potential profits, investors have not expressed that much interest in funding venues for less popular sports.

"For example, up to now, there hasn't been that much interest in building a baseball stadium," said Jiang. "Baseball is not popular among Chinese people, but according to international standards, we should build a baseball stadium which can hold 20,000 people."

Jiang said that the Beijing Municipal Government and BOCOG are still trying to find better ways to encourage investment in sports venues.

"Most of these venues might need to be reconstructed for other uses after 2008, so we might give investors money for their future reconstruction. And also, we'll endeavor to lower the interest rate on their loans," said Jiang.

Tang Min, an economic consultant from Asian Development Bank, suggested at the gathering that China's government should improve its systems for raising money.

"Many projects before 2008 will be funded by domestic and overseas private enterprises. Profits and management rights will be shared by the government and investors. How to establish a good system for raising money is a complicated question," he said.

Tang suggested that relevant departments in Beijing should cooperate on the issue with some world famous consulting companies.

"Supermarket" Pushes Reform of Bad Assets

By Peng Xiaojiang / Li Jie

Assets were a popular subject last Sunday morning when the Seminar on Finance Assets Management was held in Tianhong Plaza Hotel and the Promotion of Finance Assets Projects forum was held on the second floor of the China Zhongguancun Technology and Equity Exchange (CTEE) Hall.

These two activities were organized by the CTEE and four domestic assets management companies, Huarong, China

Cinda, Great Wall, and Orient.

During the seminar, delegates exchanged ideas about the management of Chinese banks' bad assets with the purpose of finding a way to combine such management with activity in the property rights exchange market in order to explore the bad assets' potential value. Xiong Yan, vice chairman of the board of directors of the CTEE, introduced the "Finance Assets Supermarket" method of dealing with bad assets.

That "supermarket" is an electronic exchange system built upon the CTEE platform by that organization and the four assets management companies. It enables the sharing of information on the property rights exchange market and bank stock rights exchange market, with the aim of achieving market-fixed prices. This "supermarket" can form the basis for strategic cooperation between partners as well as their collective encouragement and risk sharing.



The assets supermarket in action

Photo by Zhao Hongyi

Hot Assets

Beijing Huade Hydraulic Pressure Industry Corporation
284 million yuan

Beijing Beidian Kelin Electronics Corporation
251.49 million yuan

Beijing Jinying Iron Corporation
249.5 million yuan

China Black Metal Material Beijing Corporation
149.48 million yuan

Beijing Haoyu Industrial Trade Corporation
118.97 million yuan

China Timber Corporation
16.6 million yuan

Beijing Xuanwumen Hotel
11.45 million yuan

Taoyuan Mansion
10.6 million yuan
More information can be found at www.chamc.com.cn

Western Areas Bag Investment Bonanza

By Luo Dandan

The central government's "Western Development" initiative seems to have borne fruit at this year's expo, as provinces from China's western areas managed to harvest contracts for a wide range of projects and representing a huge amount of investment.

On September 14, the delegation from the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region held a celebratory ceremony at the Beijing International Exhibition Center for the contracts for 10 key projects they signed during the five-day expo. Altogether, those contracts are worth 780 million.

Another western winner was the delegation made up of representatives of 70 enterprises from the city of Jiuquan in Gansu Province. At the International Investment Project Talks last Saturday, that team signed the first contract, bagged the most valuable single contract and netted the most contracts overall and the most total investment. The 25 letters of intention signed at the talks by the Jiuquan delegation are valued at over 6 billion yuan. The largest of the contracts covers the Jiuquan Thermal Power Station, worth 230 million yuan alone.

Guizhou Province sent a large team to the expo and was the leading actor at the first talk of the expo. They managed to attract intended investment of 182 million yuan for projects including automobiles, pharmaceuticals and home appliances.

"As promotion of the 'Western Development' campaign has progressed, western China has become an increasingly popular region for outside investment," said Zheng Yan, director of the International Investment Projects Talks Organizing Committee.

"At this expo, many foreign companies have turned their focus to these areas, while western provinces have been enthusiastic, sending over 10 delegations led by mayors or other local leaders. Western cities are emerging from centuries of obscurity to pitch themselves to the rest of the world, and the region's favorable investment policies and large market have peaked the interest of foreign companies," he continued.

The presence of local leaders, such as the mayor and secretary of the city council of Jiuquan, who led their delegation, and other government officials seemed particularly useful in helping negotiations quickly translate into signed letters of intent to invest.

For most of Chinese history, western areas were the last frontier, a wasteland reserved to outer tribes and exiles. Things have clearly changed, however, as western China has become an economic force on its own and has only better results to look forward to at next year's High-tech Expo.

Path to Nasdaq Revealed to Chinese Companies

By Wang Junguang / Shan Jinliang

US Nasdaq China president Harry Huang found himself the most popular person at the third China Summit for Listed Companies on September 12. He was approached by many representatives of small and medium-sized domestic high-tech companies hoping he could help them list on the Nasdaq market.

Their listing dreams have been fueled by the success of Netease, the first Chinese portal website to list on the market. That company's stock has jumped from less than \$1 dollar per share in 1999 to trade at over \$50 this year. The personal assets of Netease founder Ding Lei have even surpassed those of Richard Li, son of uber-wealthy Hong Kong tycoon Li Ka-Shing and chairman of Hong Kong Pacific Century Cyber-Works (PCCW).

The other two domestic portals that have listed in US markets, Sohu and Sina, have also shown rapid growth this year, stirring up a wave of new interest in listing among Chinese companies. Domestic search engine Baidu is preparing its IPO in the US with help from Morgan Stanley, Goldman Sachs and Credit Suisse, and a few other IT companies, such as Alibaba and Ctrip, are planning to follow suit.

Companies with clear profit-making models are expected to have an easier time listing in the US now than China's three top portals did when they held their IPOs in 1999, and a second wave of listing by Chinese IT companies seems ready to hit in late 2004 or early 2005.

Huang admitted it has become easier for Chinese companies to hold IPOs in the US and said many Chinese companies have contacted Nasdaq's China Office this year to inquire about listing. "Chinese companies can be listed in Nasdaq if they are qualified," he added.

According to Huang, half of the companies listed on Nasdaq are from traditional industries, so traditional Chinese companies are also welcome. He said that of all the world's stock markets, it is cheapest and most profitable to issue IPOs in Nasdaq.

Despite the closure of the Nasdaq European market this June and the Nasdaq Japan market last October, Huang said that Nasdaq China's business would expand significantly.

He continued that Nasdaq would provide help to China's securities regulatory bodies through its proven supervision system.

At the end of his speech at the summit, Huang concluded Chinese companies should not only consider listing on domestic stock markets, pointing out that Netease, Sohu and Sina were chosen as the best performing stocks in the US stock market in 2002.

Headquarters Economy for Win-win Regional Economy



Round-table Dialogue for Headquarters Economy at the Kerry Center Hotel

Photo by Lily

By Wang Fang

Zhao Hong, vice-director of the Beijing Economic Research Institute of the Academy of Social Sciences, demonstrated that headquarters economy could achieve a win-win outcome for regional economy.

"This type of management becomes a chain of industry and market. The headquarters is in fact the supervising center for its activities in this region. In short, 'all commercial activities and benefits resulted from this operation' is known as the 'Headquarters Economy,'" said Zhao.

According to Zhao, there are two positive consequences of headquarters economy. First, it promotes regional cooperation and ends vicious competition. He said that currently there were three major regional economies in China; the Pearl River Delta, the Yangtze River Delta and the Bohai Sea Region. However, business cooperation in the Bohai Sea Region is

difficult to achieve, as competition between Beijing, Tianjin and Hebei is out of control. This competition causes an obstacle for regional cooperation and wasteful duplication.

He stated that headquarters economy provided Bohai Sea Region with a new model of cooperation and it would change the vicious competition into a friendly cooperation. "For instance, a project can be implemented on either part of the business chain mentioned above. A headquarters can be set up in one place and a factory in another place. In this way, the win-win outcome is realized", he commented.

The second consequence of headquarters economy, Zhao said, is that the regional consumption will be promoted. Headquarter economy can effect consumption in five ways. Firstly, the enterprise contributes local taxation. Accounting departments are normally set up in headquarters; therefore, the company turns in parts of its tax to

the local taxation administration.

Secondly, the staff at the headquarters have comparatively high income, so the personal income tax is a considerable amount of income for the local taxation administration. At present, the personal income tax is the second major taxation resource in Beijing.

Thirdly, it promotes more consumption. Headquarters spend a great amount of money on research and development, transportation and communication. In addition, their employees form a white-collar stratum in the region where their headquarters is located.

Fourthly, headquarter economy has an influence on society. The more headquarters there are in a given area, the more they will raise the quality of life. Meanwhile, the region will become more multi-cultural, more open-minded and more cosmopolitan.

Finally, they create more working opportunities in tertiary industries.

Mergers Urged for Chinese Industry



Wu Jinglian

By Wang Fang

Noted economist, Professor Wu Jinglian, provided a suggestion for Chinese entrepreneurs at the International Forum on High-growth Enterprises and Financial Markets at the Great Hall of the People on September 12. He said, "Planned growth depends on the legal construction and the creativity of enterprises." Specifically, mergers and acquisitions among Chinese enterprises is the efficient way to achieve that at present.

In addition, Wu proposed the establishment of an accepted, transparent and sound legal framework to guarantee the sustainable development of Chinese high-growth enterprises, and more importantly, to protect the outcome of future mergers among Chinese enterprises.

Meanwhile, the executive director of Goldman Sachs Asia, Hu Zuli, clarified the misunderstanding of mergers many Chinese entrepreneurs hold. He said that to merge was to increase not the number of employees, but of assets, which he called "organic growth."

According to Hu, dispersed assets in various industries are the obstacle Chinese enterprises are facing. This problem will become more severe with China's joining the WTO and meeting global competition challenges, he predicted.

Hu cited the bad loans of the four state-owned commercial banks as an example. These are the result of dispersed assets in each branch. The assets of these four banks are less than the assets of Citibank alone. Another example is China's automobile industry. At present, there are about 100 automobile factories in China. But none of them have the ability to compete with the international automobile industry.

Hu suggested that these enterprises should undergo mergers in order to increase their production efficiency and competition capacity. He provided Chinese entrepreneurs at the forum with the principle that mergers should be based on building up the most professional enterprise in their own field.

Hu's theory was supported by a presentation made by Sun Zhenyao, president of HP China. The merger between HP and Compaq in 2001 proved to be a successful formula for scaled interests. Mergers in the IT industry are traditionally the combination of science and technology; however, the merger between HP and Compaq was to increase the scaled benefit.

The profit of \$3.5 billion last year suggests that a merger is the best way to establish a predominant enterprise. The experience of the HP and Compaq merger demonstrates a reference for Chinese entrepreneurs that besides technological innovation, the merger as the innovation of enterprise strategy requires equal if not full attention.

Private Investors Are Best



Zhang Chunlin

Photo by Zhao Hongyi

By Zhao Hongyi

"The government should not involve much in bad assets disposal, instead, the market and private investors should play the top role," declared Zhang Chunlin, World Bank Beijing economist at the Huarong-CTEE Banking Asset Investment Promotion Conference on September 14.

Zhang, a specialist in research on enterprise restructuring, strongly opposes the newly established State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission to supervise and manage state-owned enterprises with bad assets.

"Those bad assets should be split from the enterprises and handed to the four state-owned assets management companies for disposal," Zhang said.

The four asset management companies, Huarong, Cinda, Orient and Great Wall, were established four years ago, mainly to dispose of the bad assets of the four state-owned commercial banks. Disposal means have increased from the roadshows and packaged sales to overseas financial groups, sales to domestic investors, private investors and now for sale online at China Zhongguancun Technology and Equity Exchange's (CTEE) website.

Zhang emphasized that the four asset management companies need to grow up and become more sophisticated in quickly handling the assets. "They need to expand their business to the provinces, to collect bad assets there."

In Zhang's mind, the four companies should merge in the future, and form a single bad asset trust bureau, like in Germany, where such a bureau played a key role in handling bad assets from the east part of the country after East and West Germany reunified in the early 1990s.

Privatization, large shareholders and strategic investors are the three critical figures in the recovery of bad assets, said Zhang. "They are innovative enough to handle bad assets," and only because this, "can we obtain a good price for the assets sold."

Established in mid August, CTEE has put 2 billion worth of bad assets from Huarong up for sale.



Robert A. Mundell

Photo by Wang Xu

Mundell: RMB Should Remain Stable

By James Liu

Nobel laureate economist Robert A. Mundell said in Beijing on September 12 that the Renminbi (RMB) should remain stable during a speech delivered at the International Forum on Fast Rising Enterprises and the Financial Market.

China's strong export surplus has caused pressures from the US and Japan to revalue the RMB. "But if the RMB is revalued, China's exports will drop significantly and its positive effects on compelling the world economy will be weakened," said Mundell. During the 1998 Asian Financial Crisis, Premier Zhu Rongji pledged that the RMB would not be devalued. "Now it is still not the time for RMB to appreciate," continued Mundell.

The economist pointed out that revaluation of the RMB is not the way to solve the situation. "To me, I've never heard of a developing country being urged to appreciate its inconvertible currency," said Mundell. However, Mundell suggested the RMB should be convertible before 2008, the same words he said three months ago. "The Chinese export surplus to the US can be solved through discussion under the World Trade Organization regime," he suggested.

Lessons Drawn from SARS

By Wang Fang

With the SARS epidemic over, but not forgotten, crisis management has been a key topic of discussion at the expo. Tang Yaowu, an official from the Beijing Health Bureau, demonstrated three strategies in this area at the forum titled the Social Development of Beijing Round-table on September 15.

Tang said, "First, the recognition of people in danger of crisis by relevant authorities proved that they have already realized the problem and are conducting proper means to remedy the situation." He emphasized that the information these authorities conveyed should be accurate and relevant, not erroneous, and not simply a comment on a hypothesis.

The second strategy is that the authorities should remain calm and present a friendly stance towards the public. "Don't say 'no comment' or tell all the bad news at once", he said. According to Tang, the authorities should focus on how to learn from and respond to public opinion. "It takes time for the authorities to build up the capacity to supervise and comment on social life by using modern methods," he stated.



Tang Yaowu

Finally, the authorities should learn how to apologize. "A public servant should learn how to express disappointment; how to highlight ability; how to deal with the mass media and assess the outcome of crisis management", he concluded.

Preconditions for a Public Service-oriented Government

By Wang Fang

Yu Hui, deputy researcher from the Institute of Industrial Economics, under the Chinese Academy of Social Science, gave a presentation on public service-oriented government at the Social Development of Beijing Round-table on September 15.

He defined "public service-oriented government" as one which provides exclusive services that individuals or non-government organizations do not have the ability to provide, but are directly relevant to public interests. In short, "taxpayers do not expect the government provide this type of service too much or too little, what is more important, they do not expect the government to provide fake or improper service," he said.

According to Yu, there are three preconditions for building up a public service-oriented government. First, the government must be selfless. The government should not take advantage of its citizens, rob money from citizens, or use public assets for private purposes.

Second, the government



Yu Hui

should be as compact as possible. The larger the government is, the more public assets it is going to possess, and the greater the risk to the taxpayer and potential for loss.

Third, the government should be democratic and ruled by law. The government should not use the promise of welfare as only a slogan; rather, it should be conveyed through the application of the constitution.

Finally, he suggested that the government and its citizens should reach a mutual agreement on the issues mentioned above and practice them in the reform. He hoped that a qualified public service-oriented government could be established within 20 years.

I have attended several expos around China since 1993, in Shanghai, Shenyang and Beijing. Last year, former Premier Zhu Rongji visited my country, Turkey. I was honored to have the chance to introduce my company and our products to him. He advised me to "come to China" and that's why I am here today. Currently, our products are exported to 32 countries. I hope the expo can help promote my company in China.

Adil Mirmahmutogullari
Director, Dizayn Teknik Plastik Pipes and Fittings Company, Turkey, at the Special Meeting for Government Procurement at the Beijing International Convention Center



Many people in my community have visited the expo, and they all think it was too short. It would be great if the expo could last at least one week. We have not enjoyed ourselves to the full in just three days, even though it was a fabulous show.

Zhang Qiushi
Visitor, China Water Resources & Hydropower Engineering Bureau, at the China International Exhibition Center



I can clearly feel the rapid development of Beijing from the exhibition in this hall, and it boosted my pride as a citizen of Beijing. I have also seen the plans for some of the key construction projects in Beijing, and I think they show the good results of the government's efforts and the ideas from the public.

Chen Kejia
Postgraduate, University of International Business and Economics at the New Beijing Key Projects Exhibition, Haidian Exhibition Hall



Beijing will experience great changes in the following years and will take its place among the world's great international metropolises. The Central Business District (CBD) should play a key role in this process.

Jian Jun
President, China High-Tech Investment & Development, at the New Beijing Key Projects Exhibition at Haidian Exhibition Center



I came to Beijing in 1952 and have witnessed the development of the capital over the last fifty years. Even if you leave Beijing for just one month, you can hardly recognize it when you come back. However, I hope the planning or designing of the capital can draw extensively from foreign experience and be more future-orientated.

Luo Suhai
A visitor at the New Beijing Key Projects Exhibition at Haidian Exhibition Center



I don't think the New Beijing Key Projects exhibition is as successful as I expected. The investment-orientated projects are not clear or comprehensive.

Li Chong
Commissioner, Haidian People's Political Consultant at the New Beijing Key Projects Exhibition at Haidian Exhibition Center



We prepared for the expo in May but SARS postponed it to September, so we are happy now we can participate. I think the Beijing Hi-tech Expo is one of the most important expositions not only in Beijing but also in China. We are very satisfied because, as you can see, there are many visitors and they are very interested in our products, such as our Skoda car displayed here.

I'm a little unhappy that the poster screen of the company in front of us is too high, so we are kind of hidden behind. I hoped the height of the poster could be limited, but it's just a detail. We are very happy with the organization of the expo overall.

Ales Uchytíl
First Secretary, Embassy of the Czech Republic



It's the first time I have come to this kind of forum, and it was very interesting. It can offer good advice to the relevant decision-making bureaus of the government. And the expo is very good overall.

Robin Porter
Counsellor, Science & Technology, British Embassy Beijing, at the International Forum on Research and Development Institutions



This forum is very good in terms of providing a communication platform for enterprises and R&D institutions. It is very interesting.

John Chiang
Vice President, Motorola Asia Pacific



I came to the summit as a guest speaker, to share my opinions with the participating companies on the legal issues related to Chinese mainland companies listed overseas. I think the expo is going well. I'm familiar with many of the speakers and participating companies. Some are friends, and some are our customers. So it's a good time to say hello and I'll also have meetings with some of my customers.

Li Weibin
Lawyer and partner of Li & Partners Solicitors



Wu Zhenqiang
Executive director, Zhongyuan Jiye Technology and Development Company at the China International Exhibition Center



I come to the expo every year. I feel this year's expo is luxurious and broad in scope. Unfortunately, because I am on a business trip I only have this afternoon to visit the expo. I have exchanged name cards with some companies and got some free copies of *Forbes* and *Fortune* magazines.

I'm very satisfied with the outcome. A lot of visitors came to inquire about and use our mobile phone charger.

Su Donghua
Marketing manager, Beijing Changliyuan Technology



Jane Peng
Director, China office of the University of East London at the Second China Human Resources Development Summit



This summit impressed me very much. It provides a good opportunity for the CEOs to communicate with each other.

Today's summit reflects the fact that there's a great need for professional human resources managers as well as excellent talented staff in China.

Zhang Yufeng
Deputy general manager, Beijing Sinosoft Engine Technology



I think I have got up to date with the latest developments in the IT industry, and I've also communicated with other IT personnel. Government officials, certificate authority operators and even the insurance companies have talked in the forum, which helped me find out about the certificate authority industry.

Due to the large number of participants in the forum, of course I could not expect to communicate as much as I wanted.

I came yesterday and today. I was surprised and happy to find this exhibition is ticket free! It is a very good strategy to promote hi-tech to people. I like the energy-saving products displayed at the Zhongguancun Hi-Tech Quarter.

It would be nice if the threshold for entering the expo could be lowered a little, then more of the private inventions and hi-tech products, like mine, could have a chance to be displayed before the public.

Liu Gang
Visitor, China International Exhibition Center



Wang Fuping
President, Beijing East Huada Consultants, at the Second China Human Resource Development Summit in Landmark Hotel



The expo has become a symbol of Beijing, and this summit offers a good platform to help us raise our company's popularity and ability. There is room for improvement though.

Chen Dong
Director of Enjoy Financial Communication Co.



Many of the lectures were good, especially the lectures by Liu Huiyong, vice chairman of the China Investment Association, Wang Guogang, vice director of the Financial Research Institute of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, and Xu Hongyuan, deputy director of the Development Department of the State Information Center.

I came here to get up to date with government policies, and to promote our company to potential customers, so the expo is a practical channel for my purposes.

Yang Wenguo
Staff-member of Shenzhen Tactical Investment Company at the Third China Listed Companies Summit



The overall organization is pretty good. The participants included enterprises, investment companies and security companies, which is very useful. Most of the speeches are helpful, but some experts seem to have prepared their speeches in a rush. I hope next year we can have more discussion with speakers at the forums.

Xiao Chaohui
Executive director, Investment Banking, Everbright Securities



My company didn't officially attend the expo. I came here to meet new friends and potential customers. I personally love the concept of expos, since they offer a much broader platform for us to meet many companies in our trade at one time.

Zhang Hanwu
Shenzhen Tianyin Communication Company at the Second China Human Resources Development Summit



This is my first visit to the expo. I think the forums are not open enough.

In my view, they should have several different themes, then the audiences can choose the theme they are most interested in. And I think the audiences should be given some time to express their ideas.

Main Exhibition Heats up Expo

By Zhao Pu

The main exhibition kicked off on September 12 at the China International Exhibition Center (left), marking the formal launch of the expo.

According to the organizing committee, more than 2,000 institutions from over 20 countries and regions set up their booths at the main exhibition, which

occupied an area of 60 thousand square meters.

The exhibition took up five halls of the exhibition center, and included 14 sub-exhibitions including technology, environmental protection, mass media, design and pharmaceuticals. The Olympic Technology Exhibition, International Media Exhibition and International Design Exhi-

bition were three highlights of the main exhibition.

The No 1 Hall hosting the Digital Olympic Technology Equipment Exhibition included displays by some of the biggest domestic enterprises, including Haier, Lenovo, China Mobile and Hisense. The companies showed off their new products and e-solutions which are aimed at use

in the 2008 Olympics. Foreign companies like LG, Nokia and Siemens were also participating in the display.

"Compared with previous expos, this expo focuses on three themes," says Yang Yu of the Organizing Committee. "They are the impact of electronic technology on future life; the use of high-tech in the 2008 Olympics;

and the technological reform of traditional industries."

Enterprises were not only displaying their latest products, they were also encouraged to display cooperation projects they're involved in at the exhibition. Mini trade talks and project fairs were arranged at the exhibition to promote communication and business coop-

eration.

The exhibition closed on September 15. Three auxiliary exhibitions of the expo, the China Modern Agriculture Technology and Products Exhibition, the Century Building International Integrated Housing Exhibition and the Talent Recruitment Fair opened together with the main exhibition.



Photos by Qu Liyan

Robot Show

By Luo Dandan

Two robots attracted groups of curious visitors who were browsing in Hall No. 1 of the China International Exhibition Center on the first day of the expo. Seated in the center of the Shougang Group's layout, two robots could be seen playing chess. They also unscrewed a bottle of

mineral water and filled several cups for each other.

These two clever "men" were designed and produced by Shougang Motoman Robot Co. (SGM) especially for the expo. Zhang Baohua, director of the sales and technical department said, "The purpose of putting the robots on show is to popularize

robot technology with ordinary people. As Chinese industrial technology develops, the application of all kinds of robots is an inevitable trend."

The chess players belong to a series of multi-functional industrial robots that is already used widely in manufacturing industries such as automobile

works, home appliance factories, and chemical plants. This kind of robot possesses a large number of skills including cutting, handling, and welding. Quite a few manufacturers including Guangzhou Honda, Shanghai General Motors, and Hainan Mazda have introduced SGM's robots to their works.



High-tech Olympics Illuminates Main Exhibition

By Zhang Ming

As an important part of the main exhibition, "High-tech, Beijing and Olympics Exhibition" in No.3 hall introduced a number of new technologies for the Olympics.

The exhibition comprised eight sections: electronic information, biotech and pharmaceuticals, transportation, energy conservation, modern agriculture, new materials, security technology, and sports technology.

The transport section included a technology called "voice transport assistant system". It allows people to ask directions in public transport vehicles and answers them with a human voice in either Chinese or English.



In a Simple Container

By Zhao Pu

Perched among the state-of-the-art booths of numerous design studios in the International Design Exhibition were two huge containers. The display belonged to Nova Design from Taiwan, and attracted the most visitors thanks to its unique appearance.

"We'll participate in another industrial design exhibition in Shanghai at the end of this month," said Chen Wenlong, general manager of Nova Design. "The interval between these two exhibitions is quite short, which is a challenge in terms of installation, removal and transportation of the exhibits. The idea of using containers came to us as an answer to this problem, as it's easier to pack and transport."

"The containers carry Nova design's ideas from Taiwan to this exhibition in Beijing," said Chen.



"A container is a tool for transportation, and here they represent a kind of communication between us and the visitors."

One container was placed on the top of another, forming a two-floor structure open to the curious passers-by. The first floor was the display part, with

six screens showing the design works of the studio and illustrating the Taiwan designer's enterprise culture and spirit.

The second floor was designed as a meeting room, hosting talks and lectures about industrial design given by designers from Nova Design.

International Media Boulevard Draws Interest

By Zhao Pu

A model of the International Media Boulevard being constructed in Xuanwu District was a star attraction at the expo's Modern Media Exhibition.

The boulevard, designed by the Xuanwu District Government, will be built into a large-scale international media industry community. It stretches from Xuanwumen in the north to Nanbinhe Road in the south, along about 3.2 kilometers and occupying an area of 560,000 square meters.

After the Xuanwu District government first raised the plan to build an International Media Boulevard in September 2001, it took only six months to officially launch the project. A model of the boulevard debuted at last year's expo, with just seven buildings included in the initial plan. Ten more constructions

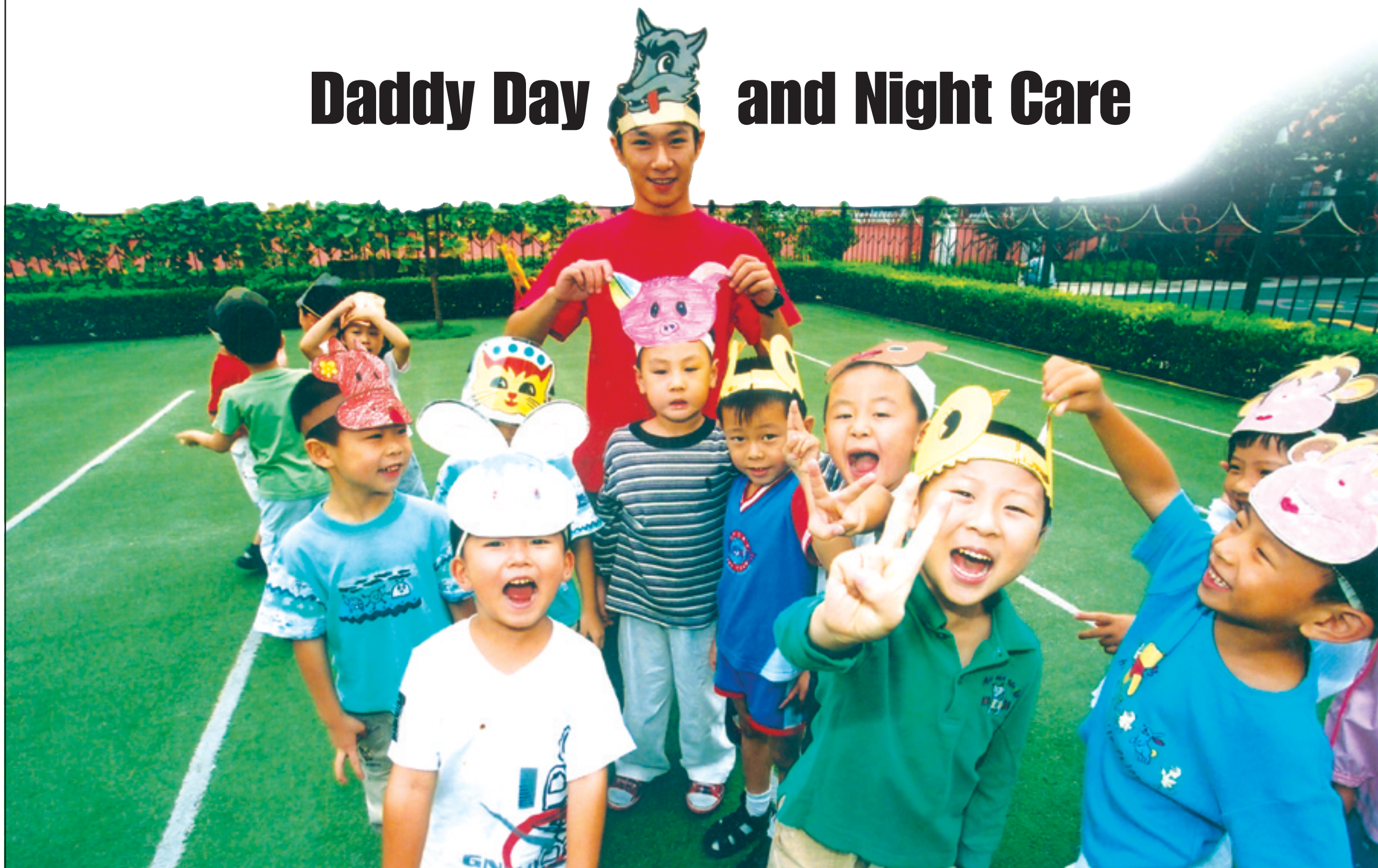
have been added to the plan in the last 15 months. Planned features include China International News Center, State News Publication City, International Media Center, and a Conference and Exhibition Center for International Media.

Two of the 17 buildings, Fenghua Haojing Apartment Building and Qingzhiyuan Garden, have already been finished. Construction of another five buildings began earlier this year.

On completion, the boulevard will provide services from domestic and foreign media groups and organizations. It's intended to promote the development of a modern media industry, and provide a venue to exhibit and market media technology and products. Eventually, it will become an international media park, home to many top international media organizations and professionals.



Daddy Day and Night Care



Photos by Wang Wei

By Zhang Huan

It's an arena where Chinese men have feared to tread. Full of doubt, watching eyes, and most daunting of all, children. But 20-year-old Ding Pan is not afraid. He signed up at a kindergarten last year, the only male on the teaching staff at his school. He receives more attention and pressure than other female teachers, he says. "So my mistakes and achievements are both magnified."

Women's world?

Ding Pan graduated from a vocational high school of Dongcheng District last year, majoring in preschool education. He still remembers the day when he came to the school to sign up. "There was a big scroll hanging outside the main building which read, '10 males required for preschool education program.'" Ding was curious. He had studied calligraphy and liked arts very much. He knew the preschool education included courses on singing, dancing, painting and music, which matched his interests. He decided to give it a try.

But Ding's decision aroused concern in his family. His mother and grandmother supported him but his father opposed his choice, saying men were careless and clumsy and not suited to taking care of children. He also felt it wasn't a promising career. "Fortunately I had two family members helping me. We took turns to talk to my father and finally persuaded him." Ding later passed the entrance examination and enrolled as one of the ten males on the course.

In 2002, as the best student among the ten males, Ding graduated from the vocational school and began his career. "I was under some pressure. As a male teacher in a kindergarten, everyone paid attention to my performance," says Ding. He also felt uncomfortable surrounded entirely by females. "On the first day, when I went to the dining room to have lunch, the women teachers looked at me curiously. I didn't know where I should sit. Finally I went to a corner and sat down by myself."

The beginning was a little hard. A lot of kindergarten schools in China allow the

children to board there during the week. It takes pressure off busy parents, but means extra responsibility for teachers. Ding found himself not only teaching classes but also looking after the daily life of the children which was totally new for him. "At first, I didn't know how to comb hair for girls and they always said it was painful. Another teacher then taught me how to do it. She combed a girl's hair in front of me and I followed her example." Ding's skills improved rapidly and after a short while, he was even able to create different hairstyles. "Now all of them want me to comb their hair," Ding says proudly.

Another thing that troubled Ding was bathing the children. "I didn't dare to touch their little limbs for fear that I might hurt them. When I put soap on them, they said it felt ticklish. And I was afraid they might fall since the floor was wet and slippery. I didn't know where to start." Again Ding learned from other experienced teachers and before long, he could do the work easily. But Ding says there were still some parents who could not accept the idea of a male teacher taking care of their children. "The kindergarten was confident, but some parents were not. It's a question of concept."

Ding once met some parents who came to enter their children's names for the kindergarten. "They mistook me for a parent. I told them I was actually a teacher. They said, 'A teacher! Good! We've finally got male teachers!' I was very happy to hear them say that," Ding smiles.

Enjoying being with children

Ding says what he enjoys most about the job is that he feels every day is a happy day being with children. "It is easy to gain a child's trust, as long as you look at everything from their point of view and regard yourself as equal to them." Ding likes sports and he becomes one with the children when playing with them. When he teaches the children to roller-skate, some children will deliberately bump into him and knock him down, and then all the children come to climb on top of him. Sometimes he's more a friend to them than a teacher.



"Watch out! Little monkey."



"There,there."



"It's your mom, say hello."

Ding is very popular with the children, which he attributes partly to his teaching style and partly to the fact that he's a man. "I think the atmosphere in a kindergarten should be like a family; both women and men are needed, just as there is a mum and dad at home."

Children have their own way of showing love. Sometimes they come to hug Ding or just hold onto his hand all the time so that he cannot do anything else. They even call him 'Daddy Ding.'

On Friday afternoon when the children are taken home by their parents, they often invite Ding to go back home with them. "I will ask mum to cook you a good dinner. She is very good at cooking," they would say, "and we can go to some place to have snacks at night. Tomorrow I will go with you to the amusement park and in the evening we will go and visit a friend of mine..." The children always suggest a busy schedule, but Ding has to refuse with thanks. "Every time when I turn them down, they are quite disappointed."

To take good care of the children, Ding has to be very cautious. "It might seem like an easy job, but actually it's quite stressful. We have to keep a close eye on every child, in case anything should happen. Because I am a man, I feel I should be even more careful." Ding says sometimes he even does not have time for a drink of water, worrying that he may lose sight of one of the children.

Confident in the future

Since becoming a teacher in the kindergarten, Ding has realized more and more how important preschool education is for the healthy growth of a child and how vital the teacher's role is. "A good personality is formed during childhood," he says.

Ding has found that children tend to imitate his speech and actions. "They would say, 'Do not speak! Keep quiet!' with the tone and pitch exactly like mine. I realized I must pay more attention to my own manners. Children are like a piece of white paper and teachers can help to draw pictures on it. The teachers' influence, in some ways, is more important than that of the parents' because the

children stay with us for five days a week."

Ding says he has learned many new things and also improved his personality during his work. "Once I gave a singing lesson. It was supposed to last half an hour but it went on for an hour and some children still didn't learn. I had to teach them individually, but still some could not make it. I became impatient and criticized them. Later I realized that different children had different abilities in study. There was no fault in them. Now I am more patient."

Ding used to be a quieter person, but the job has made him more talkative. "I have to speak more, and should have many styles of language. When I play with the children, we pretend to be different characters in a story. I have to enter into the spirit of my role. And if the role is a girl, I should speak in a girl's voice." This can catch him out as he occasionally lapses into one of his role-playing voices when he's out with his friends who then tease him mercilessly.

As a male teacher, Ding feels he has had opportunities as well as pressure. "Male teachers in a kindergarten are still something new. So if we do well, it will be noticed immediately." Ding believes male teachers have their own features and strengths, and his future plan is to study more about preschool education and possibly pursue management.

For the time being, his career has just begun and he still has many things to learn from other experienced teachers. "I don't have regrets. I like to work hard and show my ability." Now Ding's father is very satisfied with his son and Ding's work is also admired by most of his former classmates. "They think I am doing an interesting job and always encourage me to work hard."

A new semester is soon to begin, and Ding will have a new assignment: teaching the children science. It's a new course in his kindergarten and he has made great efforts to study the teaching methods and prepare the lessons. Ding regards this as a new opportunity. "Maybe I can use the experience and write papers on teaching children about science in future."

By Zheng Jiawen / Zhang Huan

One of the most prized collections of ancient calligraphy in the world has returned to China and goes on display at the Shanghai Museum next week.

The album, *Chunhua Ge Tie*, was purchased recently by the museum for US \$4.5 million, the highest amount ever paid for such an artwork.

The oldest known collection of calligraphy extant, *Chunhua Ge Tie* was originally a series of ancient calligraphy models, engraved on a set of wooden plates by order of Emperor Taizong of the Northern Song Dynasty in 992. The album, compiled by an official named Wang Zhu, was divided into 10 volumes, containing over 400 calligraphy works by more than 100 emperors and renowned officials and calligraphers, dating

Forbidden City. The surviving sets include only the fourth, sixth, seventh and eighth volumes, the others have been lost.

The copy purchased by the Shanghai Museum, which includes all four of these volumes, is said to be the best preserved of all those that have survived.

The fourth volume contains works by renowned officials of the Tang Dynasty and the sixth, seventh and eighth volumes are works by Wang Xizhi.

The album was offered for sale in the 1980's at an art auction in Hong Kong, and was purchased by an American collector for US \$300,000.

At that time, the Shanghai Museum also wanted to buy it, but lack the funds. Since then, *Chunhua Ge Tie* had been on the minds of many art historians. Qi Gong, a well-known scholar had



Photos provided by Photocom

Ancient Calligraphy Album to Go on Show in Shanghai

from the Han Dynasty (206 BC-AD 220) to the Tang Dynasty (618-907).

The most precious of these are a series of over 100 writings by "Calligraphy Saint" Wang Xizhi of the Jin Dynasty (265-420). The original wooden plates are believed to have been destroyed in a fire, leaving only rubbings of some of the volumes, given by the Song emperor as gifts to his ministers. Only a handful of these sets of rubbings are still in existence today, including one kept by the

said, "This is a national treasure. I will die with my eyes open without seeing *Chunhua Ge Tie* returned to China."

The purchase price of US \$4.5 million dollars is the second highest amount ever paid for a Chinese cultural relic anywhere in the world, the highest being HK \$44 million (US \$5.6 million) for a Ming Dynasty porcelain, auctioned in 2000. Although the price has increased 15-fold on what it sold for in the 1980s, Chinese experts have been unanimous in their support for the purchase. Chen Pengju, a member of the Calligraphy Association of Shanghai commented, "As a national treasure, it is priceless. As long as it is authentic, it is never too much."

Wang Qingzheng, vice curator of the Shanghai Museum said that the greatest value of the four volumes of *Chunhua Ge Tie* lies in the three volumes of calligraphy by Wang Xizhi, 160 pieces in all. "During the reign of Tang Dynasty Emperor Taizong (599-649), there were some 3,000 or so known calligraphy works by Wang Xizhi. But now, only 20 or so pieces of copies remain. So the four volumes of *Chunhua Ge Tie* are truly precious."

Chunhua Ge Tie will be on display at the Shanghai Museum for one month, from September 24. The museum is also preparing to publish a book of the album.



Wang Qingzheng, vice curator of the Shanghai Museum introduces Chunhua Ge Tie.

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Racy Show Unveiled at Red Gate Gallery

By Shan Jinliang

An exhibition of sexually explicit paintings elicited a mix of heated criticism and rave reviews as soon as it opened at the Red Gate Gallery last Saturday.

The works on display in the show, titled *Pink Bed*, are creations of 30-something painter Shen Ling, a professional artist and teacher at the middle school affiliated to the Central Institute of Fine Arts. Her paintings have been shown before in China and overseas in Italy, South Korea and the US.

The first floor of the gallery houses 12 oil paintings and nine pen and ink works surrounded by a circle of pink curtains meant to represent couples' private sexual lives. All the paintings depict a couple in different stages of making love and afterwards, such as in the shower, with no details of their anatomies unrevealed.

Some of small pen and ink works focus on the very different subject of experiences during Beijing's "SARS Spring." According to Shen, public response to those works has been positive, while her overtly sexual paintings have proven a little harder to stomach for some viewers.

Wang Haiyan, a graduate student of fine arts at Shandong Normal University, told *Beijing Today* that she overheard four foreign visitors at the show call some of the works "dirty." She herself believes the paintings are not offensive and are acceptable depictions of human sexuality.

Shen told *Beijing Today* that the inspirations for some of the works came from her own experiences and some simply from her imagination. "I enjoy sexuality. I express my emotions and experiences directly. Personally, I think my paintings are beautiful, and I can see why some people would misinterpret them, but I am not terribly concerned about what other people think," she said.



Shower



Night by Shen Ling



Spring Breeze by Moon Bong-sun

Korean Painter Gets Back to Basics

By Shan Jinliang

Artist Moon Bong-sun has such stature in his native South Korea that one of this ink and wash paintings hangs in the home of Korean President Roh Moo-hyun.

A new exhibition of Moon's work opened September 4 at Beijing's Soka Art Center in the Tianhai Business Plaza, and the crowds that have collected at the show are solid evidence that his art has cross-cultural appeal. He seems on the verge of making more high-profile sales, as the center's boss has made noises about purchasing one of the works, as has LG Electronics China President Roh Yong Ak.

In recent years, Moon has left his previous normal subject matter of mountains and rivers to portray

smaller scenes full of details easily overlooked in the bustle of modern life. "He portrays the object and place itself," Oh Kwang sum, director of the South Korean National Museum of Contemporary Art and Art Critic, is quoted as saying in the show's introductory brochure.

Among the works exhibited in this show are *Earth Dawn* and *Riverside*, which elegantly depict the sky and land and tree branches along the banks of a river. Wang Yihan, general manager of the Soka Art Center, described Moon's works as representing an outstanding melding of Asian artistic concepts with Western painting techniques. "They are also representations of the painter's quiet internal mood, refinement and self-restraint," she added.

Two Long, Strange Trips

By Shan Jinliang

When they came up the stairs to the third floor of the Today Art Gallery on Tuesday evening, a group of young women were shocked and a bit frightened when they were met by two people dressed like apemen, who then kneeled at their feet and cried out, "Mama!"

This strange bit of performance art is just a sample of the fare on offer at the *Post-Reality* exhibition

that opened that day. That show is one section of a two-part event, the second of which, dubbed *Second Hand Reality*, opened the same day at Today Art Gallery's branch in the Pingguo Community in Chaoyang district.

The works on display at both venues are all avant-garde fare, such as the installation piece *Controversy Model* by Sun Yuan and Peng Yu, in which several dogs are tethered to

small treadmills. Yin Xiuzhen's *Weapons* installation is made up of a collection of poles wrapped in clothes meant to look like TV towers and symbolize the power television possesses in modern society.

Zhang Baoquan, director of the Today Gallery, told *Beijing Today* that the shows are intended to be forums for the public viewing of China's most active artists and to help people refresh their notions regarding performance and multimedia art.



(Left and center) *Controversy Model* by Sun Yuan and Peng Yu; (Right) *Food City* by Song Dong

Photos by Tian Xiaotong

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Beauty Competition Ends in Storm

By Xiao Xia

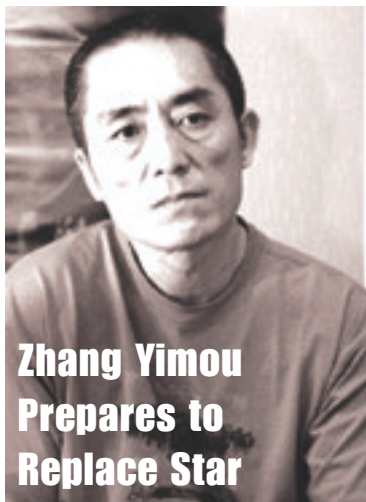
Hainan's renowned scenic resort "the ends of the earth", also known as Tianya Haijiao, witnessed the crowning Sunday of Hunan beauty Xiao Qing at the 11th New Silk Road Model Competition, one of the top such competitions in China.

The bad weather on the final night never shrouded the beauty of the 51 competitors from all over the country. Behind the champion Xiao Qing, runners up were Yao Yao, Gu Yu, Wu Yuzhen, Luo Jun and Zhang Xiaowen.

The New Silk Road model competi-

tion is an annual gala in China's modeling circle and a major festival in Hainan's southernmost city, Sanya. Models from all over China gather on the seashore to show their talent, elegance and beauty every year. The finalists are winners of the 17 regional competitions.

Venturing onto the open catwalk after the heavy storm, the competitors were hailed as both beautiful and brave. The beauty show reached its climax in the rain, when all the audience joined in to sing the pop song "Please Come to the End of the Earth" under the colorful umbrellas.



Zhang Yimou Prepares to Replace Star

By Lu Junying

Production came to a halt on Zhang Yimou's new film, *Amusement*, last Thursday, when the star, Hong Kong actress Anita Mui, was announced to be suffering from cervical cancer. Shooting was due to have begun in Ukraine, before the news was announced at a press conference on September 5.

According to a spokeswoman for Mui, she needs to go to hospital for regular checks and will be unable to work for a long time.

"It will depend on whether Mui's condition changes, but we will do our best," said Zhang Weiping, producer of the film.

CoCo Comes to Town

By Lu Junying

CoCo Li performs in Beijing on October 6. Best known for her hits *Didadi* and *True Lover*, Li is the first Chinese pop singer to be nominated for an Oscar and the first to perform at the Oscar Awards Ceremony.

Currently, she has sold over ten million records world wide. In the middle of last month, Li performed at the Daegu World Cup Stadium in Korea, at the Opening Ceremony of the Summer Universiade, singing *All Around the World* and *A Dream of One*, the English version of the theme song for the games, from her upcoming English album. *All Around the World* is also featured on the soundtrack of Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle.

Beijing will be the first stop of Li's China tour, which will continue to Nanchang, Ningbo, Chongqing and Changsha.

She will also appear in the opening concert of the Nanning International Arts Festival of Folk Music, in early November.



By Lu Junying

The State Administration of Radio Film and Television announced last Thursday that it was entering the film *Warriors of Heaven* and *Earth* in the Foreign Language Film category at the 2004 Academy Awards, representing China's mainland.

The film, directed by He Ping, is an action drama set in the Tang Dynasty, starring Jiang Wen, Zhao Wei, and Japanese actor Kiichi Nakai.

It is a co-production between Huayi Brothers and Taihe Film, and Columbia TriStar. Columbia also produced 2002's *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*, the first Chinese film to win the best foreign film Oscar.

Wang Zhongjun, president of Huayi Brothers and Taihe Film Investment said to the media added, "I have enough confidence to contend for the Oscar, because I think the film is the best one in recent years."

Warriors Entered in Oscar Race



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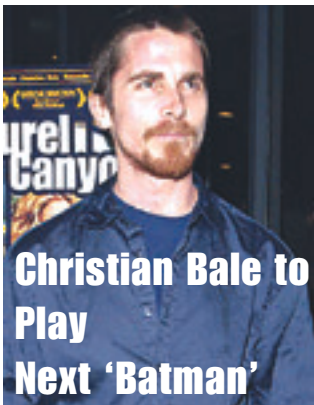
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WORLDWIDE



Christian Bale to Play Next 'Batman'

Christian Bale will don the cape and mask in a film that will chronicle the early career of The Dark Knight, Warner Brothers Pictures announced Thursday.

Memento filmmaker Christopher Nolan will direct the movie, which is set to begin filming in early 2004. "What I see in Christian is the ultimate embodiment of Bruce Wayne. He has exactly the balance of darkness and light that we were looking for," Nolan said in a press release.

Bale, 29, made his breakthrough in Steven Spielberg's *Empire of the Sun* in 1987, playing a boy trying to survive in a Japanese-run POW camp in China. (LOS ANGELES)



Country Music Legend Johnny Cash Dies at 71

Johnny Cash, country music's "Man in Black" and one of the genre's most enduring figures, died last Friday at the age of 71.

"Johnny died due to complications from diabetes, which resulted in respiratory failure," manager Lou Robin said in a statement.

Cash's death comes just four months after the death of his wife, the country singer-songwriter June Carter Cash. She died in May of complications from heart surgery at age 73.

Cash was credited with being the inspiration for a generation of Nashville upstarts with songs like *I Walk the Line*, *Folsom Prison Blues* and *Ring of Fire*. (Reuters)

Hudson, Spears Make Best/Worst Dressed List

Actresses Kate Hudson, Nicole Kidman, Jennifer Aniston, and Halle Berry took top honors in People magazine's best dressed of 2003 special issue on Thursday, with singers Britney Spears, Lil' Kim and Mariah Carey getting a thumbs down for fashion disasters.

Hudson, star of *Almost Famous* and *How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days*, was named "Free Spirit" for a style that reflected her inner hippie chick.

Oscar-winner Kidman was crowned *The Goddess* for being the epitome of elegance, and *Friends* star Aniston was named "The Purist" for her no-frills mantra. Oscar-winner Berry was pronounced "The Showstopper" for wowing crowds by flaunting her figure. (Reuters/VNU)

Fun for Furry Friends

By Lu Junying

Now that dog ownership charges are slated to drop, more people in the capital are likely to add pets to their families. That's where the Chonglikang Pet Store in Yangfangdian near the China People's Revolution Military Museum comes in. This store offers a complete range of food, toys, brushes and other goods needed to keep dogs, cats, other pets and their owners happy.

The store is attached to a veterinary clinic that offers treatment and boarding services, and can even send expert animal doctors for house calls.

Many of the dogs popular in this city are small, yippy pooches. Sensitive owners can purchase a special electrical collar that zaps dogs with a mild shock when their barks exceed a certain decibel. The 195-yuan product can give owners and neighbors a little peace of mind without causing dogs permanent harm.

Also on offer are mansion-like wood houses for dogs or cats (350 yuan) that even have windows, and more portable shelters in the form of carriers that can ensure pets stay safe and healthy during flights and other journeys. The larger carriers are made in the US (400 yuan) and the smaller, colorful versions (220 yuan each) are made in Japan.

Chonglikang is also a haven for pet fun in the form of a wide variety of toys for dogs and cats that fetch 10 to 100 yuan.

Where: No. 6 Bowangyuan Dishang, No. 5 Yangfangdian Donglu, Haidian **Open:** 9 am – 10 pm **Tel:** 6396 3038

Wind chimes and sandals



Dog house, 350 yuan

Naxi Nick-Nacks

By Chen Si

Few people are lucky enough to make it to the Yunnan Province home of the remote Naxi people. For those that can't go, store No. 4010 in the Yaxiu Market can provide a virtual tour with its wide range of goods, including woodcarvings,

embroidery pieces and sandals, handmade by the Naxi themselves.

The most immediately striking items on offer are the painted woodcarvings of characters from the Naxi's beautiful pictographic script that go for around 100 yuan each. One carving that would make a good gift for a loved one depicts two figures linked together, like two people holding hands.

Other minorities of Yunnan are known for their embroidery, or *xiupian*, but the Naxi's style of this ancient art stands out due to their use of metallic thread that make pieces literally sparkle. The store carries a wide range of embroidered works, all hand-sewn with amazing attention to detail, in a range of sizes, subjects and shapes. Some can be sewn onto

garments as attractive cuffs or collars, while larger ones are perfect for proudly hanging on a wall.

The most expensive embroidered work in the store is an exquisite piece sewn by the store owner's great grandmother decades ago that costs 8,000 yuan, but is sure to be truly one-of-a-kind.

Shelves are also stocked with smaller items made by the Naxi, such as wooden wind-chimes and handmade sandals.

Where: Store No. 4010 Yaxiu Market, Sanlitun, Chaoyang **Open:** 9:30 am – 9 pm **Tel:** 13641115055



Embroidered work, 680 yuan



Lace Umbrella, 20 yuan

Lovely Lace

By Chen Si

All things frilly are available at shop No. 3058 in the Yaxiu Market. Among the goods on sale are tablecloths, bedspreads, placemats and handkerchiefs, all made of delicate hand-sewn lace.

Lace, called *chousi* in Chinese, is a very labor-intensive material to make, and a single piece can take a skilled craftsman one year to complete. The holes in the material add to its charm, making it light and giving pieces an ethereal quality.

The tablecloth selection includes hundreds of choices in a variety of shapes, styles and colors, sure to fit dining tables sized for two or for 20. Among the most impressive is a huge cloth made to a cover a 12-person table (4,500 yuan) designed with a dramatic lacey picture of the Great Wall surrounded by smaller pictures of flowers and fruit. Smaller and less intricate cloths go for 1,000 yuan or less.

Other items on sale include bedcovers, clothes and somewhat impractical umbrellas. The latter come in a range of colors and cost only 20 yuan each, but of course at not terribly effective at keeping out the rain.

Where: Store No. 3058 Yaxiu Market, Sanlitun, Chaoyang **Open:** 9:30 am – 9 pm **Tel:** 8402 8126



Lace tissue cover, 10 yuan

Not Your Grandfather's Jeans

By Lu Junying

Long the coolest kind of pants in the West, jeans have wedged themselves into popular culture in China in the past couple decades, becoming the pants of choice for many people, young and old. Yet finding comfortable, fashionable and good-quality jeans can still be a challenge in the capital.

One place to look for fun jeans with extra flair is the Pansitong shop, a small store tucked away on the third floor of Xidan Mingzhu Plaza that specializes in domestically-made jeans of all kinds.

Among the unusual designs on offer is a pair that has a half-moon shape on each leg (220 yuan). When wearers keep their legs together, the halves unite to form full moons above their knees.

Tapered, tight jeans seem to be the hot fashion for young Beijing women this season, and this store has plenty for them. There is a wide range of close-cut jeans that taper from waist to ankle in a variety of designs, colors and sizes, all priced at 150 yuan each. Also available are some fun, comfortable jeans overalls (80 yuan per pair) in a range of colors perfect for the hip and the pregnant.

Women into the "Old West" look can try check the cowboy blouses (220 yuan) in off-white. They have mid-length sleeves with macramé cuffs and tight, low collars.

The store also offers a range of coats, shoes and bags to round out popular styles, all priced around 100 to 200 per item.

Where: Store No. 38, Northwest corner of third floor of Xidan Mingzhu Plaza, Xicheng **Open:** 9:30 am – 7:30 pm



Overalls, 80 yuan

Photos by Tian Xiaotong

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By Joel Kirkhart

While over the past five centuries coffee has become the most popular beverage on earth, with 500 billion cups now consumed worldwide per year, tea has managed to continue to dominate this country's cups as it has for millennia. Yet things are reforming and opening up, and in just the past few years coffee has grabbed a true foothold in China, or at least among many people in Beijing.

There is no doubt that the majority of people here who have tried coffee are most familiar with its instant form, and Nescafé and other instant competitors are normally the only kinds of coffee products sold at local supermarkets. Many specialty stores and high-end markets, however, now stock a surprising range of pre-ground, vacuum-packed coffees, and a select few even freshly roasted beans, meaning there is no reason to suffer through another cup of unsatisfying, low-quality brew.

Commonly misperceived as a bean, coffee is in fact made from the seeds of berries that grow on trees particular to the world's subtropical belt at elevations of sea level to 6,000 feet. The production of coffee is an incredibly labor-intensive process, and by the time it is ready to drink has gone through seven stages and sometimes just as many handlers. First, ripe berries are picked, normally by hand. With their small size, it takes approximately 2,000 of these berries, each of which contain two seeds, to produce around 500 grams of roasted coffee.

The picked berries are then transported for processing. The fruit is removed from the seeds either by drying the cherries or by literally washing the flesh off. The beans, green when raw, are then dried, sorted, graded and selected, again normally by hand. Once separated, they are bagged and shipped to roasters all over the world (including a couple in Beijing.) The amount of beans shipped is phenomenal, as coffee is the second most traded commodity in the world, following petroleum.

There are two basic kinds of coffee beans, the superior *arabica* and the hardier *robusta*. Arabica beans grow best at higher altitudes and produce more flavorful and aromatic coffees, though they normally contain only the half the caffeine of robusta beans. The hardier, easier-to-grow and higher-yielding robusta species have more bitter-tasting beans, and thus are normally just used in inexpensive coffees or to add caffeine or body to a blend.

Coffee is grown in nearly every country with the right geographic qualities. Prominent producers in South America include Colombia, a giant maker of famed high-quality beans, and Costa Rica and Guatemala, which produce coffee with a distinct acidity bite. The plant is native to Ethiopia, which still produces a range of rich, often spicy coffees, and has also spread to other areas of Africa, such as Kenya, known for mellow-citrusy flavored coffees. Among the few coffee-making areas of North America are Jamaica, home of cherished Blue Mountain coffee, and Hawaii, which produces expensive and flavorful Kona coffee. As a result of colonialism, even East Asia is the in the coffee game. Indonesian coffee, whether Java or Sumatra, is sought after for its earthy flavor and full body, and the Philippines produce rich, delicious Batangas coffee and other varieties.

China's Yunnan Province has been growing coffee with increasing success since 1892, when the plant was introduced to the area by a French missionary. The remote province lies directly in the coffee-growing belt of the world and offers the elevation and rainfall to produce top-level coffee. A range of Yunnan coffees, in whole bean and ground form under the Leshou and Golden Valley brands, are available in Beijing, and while most are pretty rough, there is at least one near diamond.

Coffee Makers on the Market

French press - also called a press pot or plunger, many people swear by these simple devices for the richest, strongest tasting coffee. French presses are easy to use, easy to clean and fast. Just remember to drink pressed coffee immediately - it does not sit well. When buying a French press, look at the quality of the screen and go for ones with glass bodies.



Vacuum coffee makers - these complex devices look great and make superb, consistent coffee, but can be pretty expensive. They are not the easiest to use, but are definitely the most impressive to watch and produce coffee as rich as that from a French press but without the grit.



Drip makers - electric drip coffee machines are probably the most common kind of coffee makers in local homes. These machines are very easy to use, but many do not get water up to optimal temperature, which can lead to a weaker brew. When choosing a drip maker, look for one with a cone-shaped filter basket that uses paper filters or comes with a gold reusable filter - plastic filters make wretched coffee. Also, don't skimp, as many cheaper machines make poor coffee. Machines by foreign makers Braun and Krups are recommended.



While these countries are the stars of the coffee growing world, the list above does not include the world's biggest coffee exporter. That honor goes to Brazil, quietly followed by new giant Vietnam, both of which mostly produce robusta beans. The massive amounts of coffee coming out of Vietnam in the past several years have had a marked influence on the market, helping to push the price of coffee down to the chagrin of other developing, coffee-producing nations, particularly in Africa and Latin America.

Place of origin is one of the two most common labels for coffee, the other being type of roast. Roasting is an essential process to coffee drinking, as raw beans are nearly tasteless. It only when they are cooked under high, dry heat that their essential oils bubble to the surface and they undergo the chemical changes that make them the flavorful, aromatic nuggets beloved around the world

Light roasted coffee, perhaps the best known variety of which is called City, comes in colors that range from cinnamon brown to light tan. Their flavor is typically acidic and not as rich as darker roasts, but they do pack a heavier caffeine punch. Medium roasts, called American, Breakfast or Full City, fall, not surprisingly in the middle.

These days, dark roasts dominate the market, prized for their fuller, bittersweet flavor that makes them perfect for both brewed coffee and espresso. They range from lustrous chocolate brown to almost oily black, and while some have a smoky edge, most have a silky texture thanks to the greater caramelization of internal sugars. Common dark roasts, in order of darkness, include Vienna, French and Italian.

Armed with some knowledge of coffee varieties, it is time to take the next step and start brewing it up at home. There are several methods for doing this, all of which will require the purchase of some sort of equipment (see side story at left). Each brewing system has its own advantages and draw backs, so choose the type that seems right for you and get brewing. Big department stores around town should offer most, with probably the largest and most complete selection available at the Lufthansa Shopping Center.

Before starting to brew, however, there is one crucial measurement and four main principles to live

by for making good coffee. The measurement is the standard coffee dose of two to two-and-a-half level teaspoons of coffee per three-quarter cup of water. The four principles are listed below:

Grind your own. This is easier said than done in Beijing, as there are few coffee grinders on the market and those available are almost prohibitively expensive. Plus, doing this necessitates getting freshly roasted, whole bean coffee, available through a few venues but generally expensive. Whole bean and ground coffee should be kept in an airtight container in a dark, cool place. While many do it, refrigerating coffee can actually sap flavor from the beans.

Use good water. While tap water results in drinkable coffee, flavor will be more pure and robust from good tasting water chock full of minerals, such as spring water.

Keep things clean. Repeated use leaves residue on all brewing equipment that can injure taste. While it is unnecessary to clean equipment after every use, regular cleanings will help get the most out of your coffee.

Keep it fresh. Coffee is best within 10 minutes of brewing and should not be kept on heat for any longer than necessary.



Café de Olla - Mexican-style strong coffee with sugar and spices

Mexico is a coffee producing and loving nation. One popular Mexican version of the drink is a rich, dark and sweet brew redolent of spice that makes a great change from regular coffee. Aside from adding some extra ingredients, the brewing method is simple and almost fool-proof.

Ingredients:

1/2 to 2/3 cup packed brown sugar, plus 1 teaspoon molasses (optional)
2 inches cinnamon stick
A few aniseeds (optional)
2/3 cup dark-roast coffee, medium to coarse grind

Procedure:

Mix five cups water, the sugar, cinnamon and optional aniseed in a small pot. Slowly bring to a boil, stirring to melt the sugar. Stir in the coffee, remove from heat, cover and steep for five minutes.

Strain the coffee through a fine-mesh sieve (but not a coffee filter) into cups and serve immediately. Makes four to five servings.

Coffee Talk

By Wang Xiaoxiao

The popularity of coffee is growing in this country, but the masses still seem skeptical. This week, *Beijing Today* interviewed some young people at a local Starbucks' cafe to get their opinions on coffee and how they take it.

Christine Jiang, 32, journalist

I don't actually like the taste of coffee, I just like the way it smells. Most coffees taste the same to me. I prefer cappuccino and espresso because they smell the best.

Jiang Wei, 25, student

Coffee is no longer an exotic drink to Chinese. In the past, people who drank coffee came off as very hip or very modern, but now drinking coffee is just like drinking juice. I don't know much about coffee, but I know you don't have to go only for famous or expensive coffee from South America for a good cup. I like a little milk in my coffee, but sugar is not necessary.

Wen Nan, 26, clerk

I don't like coffee at all, and aside from helping you not feel drowsy, I think there's nothing good about it. It has a burnt taste and I prefer the bitter taste of tea, which is healthier and better because it doesn't contain caffeine. Plus, tea is cheaper. I'm not saying I never drink coffee, but just not that much.

Wang Jing, 23, clerk

I like coffee very much, but regret that I don't know much about coffee culture, which I figure has to be as rich as that for Chinese tea. I like coffee because I like chocolate and always drink it with lots of milk and sugar. I can't understand how some foreigners like black coffee - it's even more bitter than Chinese medicine! When I drink coffee it's got to have milk and sugar.

And the Winner Is...

By Joel Kirkhart

While there is no denying that fresh ground coffee tastes the best, we all have those mornings (and afternoons) where even such a small task as grinding coffee beans can seem monumental. Thankfully, there is a growing range of good ground, vacuum-packed coffees available in Beijing that can produce a perfectly satisfying cup with marginally less effort.

To give our readers some direction in choosing ground coffee, *Beijing Today's* three intrepid "foreign experts" and resident caffeine hounds tested five products on the market. The test was hardly a model of comprehensive or scientific research, but we did manage to use the same measure of ground coffee and the same French press to brew all the contestants and judged on a five-point scale. The surprising results indicate that there is no need to spend an arm and a leg to get good material for brewing yourself.

Last place: **Capitaino Suprema** - 65 yuan for 500 grams - 3 points

Reviewers started by describing this as "bland" and "ordinary," but a few sips later unleashed such criticism as "not there", "sour" and "tastes like instant." (It should be noted this coffee had already spent two weeks in the writer's refrigerator. Oops...)

Fourth place: **Illy Espresso** - 98 yuan for 250 grams - 7 points

The unspoken favorite before testing began, this expensive contestant in part suffered because its fine espresso grind resulted in an overly gritty or "muddy" brew using the French press. While one reviewer praised it for being "smoky and deep," and another managed a restrained "not bad," Illy truly offended the third, who chastised it for poor aftertaste and a lack of subtlety - "this coffee invades the mouth and takes over," he said.

Third place: **Melitta German Premium** - 43 yuan for 250 grams - 6.5 points

While this coffee did not offend anyone, neither did it wow. Described as "decent" and "inoffensive", reviewers did agree it had a nice chocolaty layer and one found a hint of sweet, but that could have been a result of the sugar he dumped in...

Second place: **Yunnan Espresso** - 28 yuan for 250 grams - 9.5 points

This domestic underdog finished in fine fashion, praised for its strength and meaty body. It has a bitter kick that some may find pleasant, others too much, and its aftertaste does not hold a candle to our winner. Overall, though, this is a surprisingly enjoyable coffee, especially seeing as it was the cheapest in the test.

The winner: **Lavazza Rossa**, 65 yuan for 250 grams - 13 points

All three testers immediately identified the run-away winner as espresso because the cups were gritty, rich and highly fragrant. The coffee was praised for its nice, sharp flavor, the "clear kinda thing it has going on," said one tester, as well as for its rich body and exceptional aftertaste.

Photos by Geng Lei / Sarah Bai / Ian Provan



Exhibitions

Touch The Trace Of History: Shirley Wu

Wu's abstract works — painted on the front and sides of a thick canvas frame so that they resemble being mounted in multi-coloured gift boxes — show off a pulsing rhythm and a studied contrast in color.

Where: Creation Gallery, North end of Ritan Donglu
When: September 20-28, daily 10am - 7pm **Admission:** free
Tel: 8561 7570

First Beijing International**Art Biennale**

Beijing's big art bash will feature solo exhibitions by Qi Baishi and Takayama Tatsuo. With over 600 works by 300 artists from 40 countries, it is one of the capital's biggest ever art exhibitions.

Where: National Art Museum of China, No.1 Wusi Dajie
When: September 20 - October 20, daily 8:30 am - 6 pm
Admission: 20 yuan **Tel:** 6401 2252

Wang Shilong Photo Exhibition

Wang's black-and-white photos record China's social chang-



es over three decades starting in the 1950s.

Where: 798 Photo Gallery, No.4 Jiuxianqiaolu, Dashanzi Art District, Chaoyang
When: September 21 - October 20 daily 10am - 6:30pm except Mondays
Admission: free **Tel:** 6438 1784

Fade In Fade Out

A show by three Japanese

artists who live in Beijing: Liu Fukuda Masahiro, Katou Gaku and Shimizu Megumi. Liu's manly metallic motorcycles are a stark contrast to Megumi's soothing undulating acrylics; this contrast is echoed in the two exhibition spaces chosen by the artists, a simple studio in the Beijing suburbs, the other a cosmopolitan setting in the city's center.

Where: Studio Liu, Huangcaowan, north of the North Fourth Ring Road
When: September 22-October 3 Mon, Wed-Fri 10am - 5pm, Sat 1pm - 5pm **Admission:** free **Tel:** 6495 3029

Jams

Miserable Faith

Metal Band Tongku de Xinying (Miserable Faith) celebrate four years of being together with tonight's performance at Get Lucky. Siyaowan (Death Pill) are the support band.

Where: Get Lucky Bar, 500m east of the south gate of Jingmao Daxue, near Tai Yang Gong
When: September 19, 9:30pm
Admission: 30 yuan **Tel:** 6429 9109

Afro-Caribbean Beat Night

DJs Albert and C are here tonight courtesy of the Deptford Crew with a hot night of high rhythm. Soca, Kweito, Zouk, Rai, Reggae and even some stuff you have never heard of. Three hundred people maximum, so get there early.

Where: Vibes, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, north of Beijing Tokyo Art Projects
When: September 20, 10am **Admission:** free **Tel:** 6437 8082

**Hang on the Box**

Female band Guazai Hezi Shang (Hang on the Box) bring their pop-punk sound, together with PK 14.

Where: Loup Chante, 38 Chengfulu
When: September 20, 9pm **Admission:** 30 yuan
Tel: 6276 7355

Sports

Bashang Horse-riding Trek

Join the Yanjie Outdoor Club and One Step China in a unique tour of Bashang Grasslands with a weekend horse-riding trek. Leave Friday night, return Sunday night. Trip includes one night of outdoor camping, roasted lamb dinner, return transport, all camping equipment, meals, horses and accommodation. For more info visit www.onestepchina.com

When: September 19-21 **Tel:** 13911900476

The Fifth Beijing Terry Fox Run 2003

The Canadian Embassy is pleased to announce that the 2003 Terry Fox Run will take place on Saturday, September 20. Participants should be at the North Gate of the Worker's Stadium by 9am. The event will begin at 10:00am at Worker's Stadium and will end in the main parking lot of the Cancer Research Institute, a distance of approximately 8 kilometers. Everyone is invited to run, walk, rollerblade, ride their bicycles or use their wheelchairs. Register at www.clubcanada.net.

Where: Workers Stadium, Gongti Beilu
When: September 20, 9 am

We are glad to receive your feedback. We will print employment, language exchange and accommodation info for individuals. Feel free to email us at bjtodayinfo@ynet.com or call 6590 2529
By Dong Nan



Oil Painting Exhibition by Young Artists

Featuring more than 40 works by 18 young artists from around China, including Sun Jian and Yu Haibo. Most of them teach at various academies around the country.

Where: Soka Art Gallery, Room 102, Building B, Tianhai Shangwu Dasha, 107 Dongsi Beidajie
When: September 23 - October 2 Daily 9 am - 5pm except Mondays
Admission: free **Tel:** 6406 5477

Clubs

Party Orange

Starting at 10pm DJs Herbie and Han spin breaks and hip hop for your dancing pleasure.

Where: The Den, 4 Gongti Donglu, next to City Hotel main entrance
When: September 19, 10 pm - 4am
Admission: 30 yuan, includes 1 drink
Tel: 6592 6290

A Tribute to Astro Boy

DJ Shin Nishimura is in from Tokyo and teaming up with Beijing's DJ Wengweng to pay homage to Astro Boy: Idol of a Nation. While they're at it, you get to groove and bump to the Japanese thump.

Where: CD Cafe, Dongsanhuan Lu, south of Agriculture Exhibition Centre (Nongzhanguan)
When: September 20, 10 pm
Admission: 60 yuan (students 30 yuan) **Tel:** 6501 8877 ext 3032

Stage

Shadow Play

Shadow play is a very old Chinese folk art rarely seen in cities. The Daoqing Shadow Play Group from Huan Xian, Gansu province performs this ancient and disappearing art.

Where: Beijing North Theater, Bei Bingmasi Hutong, 67 Jiaodaokou Nan Dajie
When: September 19-21 7:30 pm
Admission: 120, 200 yuan **Tel:** 6406 0175, 6404 8021

Ballet: Moscow Classical Ballet

The Moscow Classical Ballet was founded in 1966 under the artistic direction of Igor Moiseyev. This time they perform *Swan Lake* and *Giselle*.

Where: Poly Theater, 1/F Poly Plaza, 14 Dongzhimen Nandajie
When: September 23, 24
Admission: 120-500
Tel: 6506 5345

Activities

Summer Smoke 2003

The Beijing Cigar Club hosts monthly cigar evenings, featuring local distributors of cigars, cognac, port, and wines.

Where: John Bull Pub, 44 Guanghua Lu
When: September 23, 7 pm
Admission: 250 yuan, includes two top-quality cigars, and samples of food and liquor
Tel: 6532 5905

**Hilton Beijing Entices Diners to the Champs-Elyses**

Every year, Hilton Beijing stages the city's foremost "Food and Wine Experience" which takes place this year until September 20. Over 120 International wine makers present their premium wines on Friday September 19 at the "Grand Tasting and Buffet" open to the public from 6:00 PM onwards.

Guest chef Paul Beech from the renowned Paris-based "Le Cordon Bleu Cooking School" will present a distinctively French degustation menu ideally suited to the location.

When: September 20
Where: Hilton Beijing, dongsanhuan beilu, Chaoyang
Tel: 6466 2288, Ext. 7372, contact Chris Roberts

Music

International Chorus

The International Festival Chorus performs Shostakovich's Piano Concerto No. 2 under the baton of Nick Smith. Piano by Mao Dongli.

Where: Forbidden City Concert Hall, inside Zhongshan Park, Xi Changan Jie
When: September 20, 7:30 pm
Admission: 60-480 yuan
Tel: 6559 8285

**Zhou Huajian**

Veteran pop star Zhou Huajian is to perform his favorite classic songs and some new ones.

Where: Capital Gymnasium, 54 Baishiqiao Lu
When: September 19, 7:30 pm
Admission: 1000 yuan
Tel: 6406 8888, 6406 9999

This sequel picks up where the first movie left off, with Magneto (Ian McKellen) in jail and an even deadlier threat on the rise, as anti-mutant propaganda reaches public consciousness. Directed by Bryan Singer. Starring Halle Berry, Hugh Jackman and Kelly Hu. In English.

Where: UME International Cineplex (Huaxing Guoji Yingcheng), 44 Shangyushu Kexueyuan, Haidian
When: from September 19
Admission: 60-70 yuan
Tel: 6261 2851

X-Men 2



Movies

Zhou Yu's Train

Set in contemporary Chongqing, the film stars Gong Li as a socially empowered protagonist — challenging conventional gender roles in an attempt to realize her own desires. Directed by Sun Zhou, in Chinese.

Where: B2M Bar, Dongpingfang Apartment Block, inside the eastern-most gate, next to the Gong River, Adingmenwai, Dongcheng
When: September 21, 9 pm
Admission: free **Tel:** 6426 1091

Ci Qin (The Emperor and the Assassin)

Chen Kaige's classic tale of an assassin making an attempt on the life of the Qin ruler, who would go on to unify China for the first time. Starring Gong Li, Zhang Fengyi and Li Xuejin. In Mandarin with English subtitles.

Where: Cherry Lane Movies, Fountain Terrace, Hilton Hotel, 1 Dongfang Lu, Dongsanhuan Beilu
When: September 19, 20, 8:30pm
Admission: 50 yuan, includes a drink
Tel: 6466 2288 ext 7370, 13901134745

A Student Village

Documentary about a boarding school community in Dali, where most residents are teachers and students. Produced and directed by Wei Xing. In Mandarin with Chinese subtitles.

Where: Space for Imagination, 5 Xiwangzhuang, Haidian
When: September 20, 7pm
Admission: free **Tel:** 6279 1280

About Power

A comedic fantasy about insecurity, modernity, and getting even. In Spanish.

Where: Cultural Section of the Mexican Embassy, 5 Sanlitun Dongwu Jie
When: September 24, 7pm
Admission: free **Tel:** 6532 2244





By Dong Nan

If you are unfamiliar with the Southern Sichuan Bamboo Sea (蜀南竹海) think *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon* — the beautiful scene of the forest of bamboo in which Zhou Runfa and Zhang Ziyi fight their epic battle was shot there.

The Bamboo Sea is southwest of the town of Yibin, Sichuan province. Tens of thousands of bamboo plants cover an area of 120 square kilometers. In the central region, more than 5,000 hectares of Nan bamboo (*Phyllostachys Mazelexh*) covers 28 ridges and 500 hills, a misty, vast, green sea.

Visitors really need two days to properly see all the sights at the Bamboo Sea.

Day one: Chengdu – Zigong – Yibin – The Museum of the Southern Sichuan Bamboo Sea – Carefree Valley – Bamboo Banquet

Setting out from Chengdu at 8 am, by way of Zigong and Yibin city, visitors can reach the Bamboo Sea in the afternoon.

The Museum of the Southern: Sichuan Bamboo Sea specializes in bamboo and bamboo culture.

There are four exhibition rooms and a garden featuring more than 40 varieties of bamboo.

The main items on display are specimens of various bamboo's, ancient weapons, instruments and crafts made by bamboo, and calligraphy, poetry and traditional paintings of and about bamboo.

Carefree Valley: Countless bamboo plants make this valley a real wonderland, complete with hot springs and comfortable accommodation.

Bamboo Banquet: After the first day's journey, tourists can enjoy the renowned bamboo banquet in numerous hotels and restaurants. The dishes include bamboo shoots, bamboo fungus (竹荪) and bamboo smoked bacon (竹熏火腿), all natural, green food.

The two main ingredients, bamboo shoots and bamboo fungus, can be made into over 200 delicious dishes. Bamboo fungus is also a valuable medicine, used in the treatment of cancer. It contains a dozen kinds of amino acids and is very beneficial as a health tonic.

Day two: Green Corridor - Xianyu Cave - Tianbao Stockade - Fairy Lake - Rainbow Waterfall

Green Corridor: The corridor is actually a five-kilometer long road, lined either side with towering bamboo plants. The long and soft branches arch together overhead, forming a covered, green corridor. In summer, it is delightfully cool inside.

Xianyu Cave: "Xianyu Dong" or "Cave," means literally "the cave where the immortals live." There are numerous Buddhist and Taoist temples. These temples were built in the first year of the reign of Emperor Kaiqing, of the Southern Song Dynasty, and were rebuilt during the Ming and Qing dynasties.

With the luxuriant green Bamboo Sea above and a precipitous ravine below, there is only one possible route to ascend the grass covered cliff.

The statute of Guanyin, the Goddess of Mercy, carved into the cliff is a valuable art treasure. She has a smooth face, with a peaceful expression, delicate features and exquisite clothes. It is also unusual in that Buddhism and Taoism coexist here harmoniously.

Inside the cave, there are carved

stones and steles, which record poems written by visitors to the cave over the centuries.

Tianbao Stockade: This cliff lies a little over 50 meters to the north of Xianyu Cave. Taking advantage of the natural topography, it was built by the local government to resist the Taiping Army led by Shi Dakai during the reign of Emperor Xianfeng of the Qing Dynasty. It is 1,500 meters in length, 20 meters in height and about 10 meters in width.

The stockade has a precipice above and a deep stream flows along its base. Before entering the stockade, one has to negotiate 13 difficult and

dangerous natural hindrances.

In front of the stockade, there is a yellow stone pillar, more than 10 meters high, on which the characters "Huan San Shi" (黄伞石) are inscribed, meaning yellow stone umbrella, as it supports a huge umbrella-shaped rock.

Nearby, the "36 Strategies," a key concept of Sun Wu's *Art of War*, are carved into the cliff.

Fairy Lake: The exquisite Fairy Lake lies in the northernmost corner of the bamboo sea. The

water of the lake is green and clean, and numerous fish can be seen swimming in it. Around the banks of the lake, there are many bamboo pavilions, stockades and porches, creating a fairyland of bamboo.

Rainbow Waterfall: The Rainbow Waterfall is one of the most famous sights of the Bamboo Sea. It stands at the end of a calabash-shaped valley that runs between Shigushan (Stone Drum Mountain) and Shiluoshan (Stone Gong Mountain), near Wanli village, in the eastern part of the Bamboo Sea. These two mountains stand facing each other and the valley is high and steep. The waterfall, which is about 200 meters high and 4 meters wide, leaps out from the cliff of the valley. The sunlight shining on the stream forms colorful rings of light, and on fine afternoons, the waterfall becomes a kaleidoscopic riot of color, like a rainbow rising slowly from the valley.

Bamboo Crafts:

Bamboo root carvings, bamboo woven articles and bamboo furniture made in the Bamboo Sea area are sold all over the world. They are exquisite handicrafts and possess a delicate sense of nature.

There are over 200 sorts of bamboo crafts made here, with prices varying from 20 to 1,000 yuan. A beautiful bamboo handicraft makes a perfect souvenir of a visit to the Bamboo Sea, and an ideal gift for friends and relatives.

Getting there:

Fly directly from Beijing to Yibin, or fly to Chengdu or Chongqing first, then take a train to Yibin. It is a one-hour bus journey to the Southern Sichuan Bamboo Sea from Yibin south bus station.

Admission:

From January to October: 65 yuan.
From November to December: 50 yuan.

Make sure you keep your ticket with you, as there are ticket checks at all of the scenic spots.

Half-price concessions are available for the elderly, disabled and students.

Accommodation:

Zhuhai Shanzhuang (竹海山庄), two stars, 100 yuan per person.

Shunan Hotel (蜀南宾馆) three stars, 150 yuan per person.

Zhuhai Hotel (竹海宾馆), two stars, 100 yuan per person.

Photos by Photocom

Southern Sichuan Bamboo Sea

